

■ BUSINESS/B1

Foreign direct investments up 64% to P1.1B due to investor confidence

■ WORLD/A8

Gordon Parks, 1st US black photojournalist for Life magazine, dies at 93

■ METRO/A20

Napolcom strips Pasig mayor of control over police

■ ENTERTAINMENT/A2-1

When Pia went to the Oscars, 30 people made her over

PNP: We didn't arrest Risa, we got her out of harm's way



By Luige A. del Puerto  
YES, SHE WAS BODILY carried out of the rally site and brought to a police camp against her will. But no, Rep. Risa Hon-tiveros-Baraquel was not "arrested," a senior po-

PNP/A17

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, March 10, 2006

★★★

8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 92 P18

Bayan exec killed; 'Amnesty' alarmed over leftist deaths

THE CHAIR OF THE BAYAN MALOLOS (BULACAN) chapter was killed at 9 last night, even as Amnesty International yesterday said it was "gravely concerned" over the killings of left-wing activists in the Philippines and urged the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo to send a clear message to security forces that extrajudicial killings would not be tolerated.

Bayan secretary gen-

BAYAN/A6

## Crackdown in AFP widens



IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY. Jessica Soho (left), GMA 7 vice president for News and Public Affairs, and Maria Ressa, head of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs, present a united front at the Senate during a hearing on the suppression of the media while Presidential Proclamation No. 1617 was in effect.

JOANSON/OC

### Basilan hero, 24 others investigated

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A SCOUT RANGER CAPTAIN dubbed as a hero of the 2001 siege of Basilan has been detained along with 24 elite officers and men in what appears to be a widening crackdown in the military on those allegedly involved in the attempt to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo last month.

Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, the Army chief, and Michael Defensor, presidential chief of staff, also dismissed denials on Wednesday by Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, the sacked Scout Rangers commander, when he appeared at the National Bureau of Investigation that he had plotted the overthrow of Ms Arroyo.

Defensor told Palace reporters that an ABC-5 TV interview with Lim, in which the latter reportedly said he was withdrawing support from the President, was the spark that prompted Ms Arroyo to move against the plotters in the early morning hours of Feb. 24.

ABC-5 denied Defensor's claim. News anchor John Susi said the network did not interview Lim. "ABC-5 values the freedom of media through responsible, free and newsworthy reporting," he said in Filipino.

Esperon confirmed the arrest of Capt. CRACKDOWN/A7



"HERO OF THE LAMITAN SIEGE" in Basilan in 2001, Capt. Ruben Guinolbay, now the Scout Rangers' personnel chief, is one of only two officers named by the Army chief as allegedly involved in the Feb. 24 coup attempt. Guinolbay and his troops fiercely fought the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers who used their hostages as human shields to escape.

PD PHOTO

### Kin of stampede victims not happy with NBI report

By Armand N. Nocum and Jocelyn R. Uy

AN ANTICRIME GROUP AND THE FAMILIES of victims and survivors of the Feb. 4 stampede at the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City are not pleased with the recommendations of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Dante Jimenez, founding chair of the Vol-

unteers Against Crime and Corruption, yesterday said those to be held liable for criminal charges should include not only ABS-CBN chair and CEO Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III but also Senior Supt. Raul Medina, the chief of the Pasig police at the time of the stampede.

"He (Lopez) should also face similar charges," said survivor Neildrin Catubig, 30.

KIN/A18

### Palace asked ABS-CBN to stop live broadcast

By Philip C. Tubeza and TJ Burgonio

A RANKING MALACAÑANG official privately asked ABS-CBN to "stop airing" last month's stand-off at Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, the head of the network's News and Current Affairs

division said yesterday at a Senate hearing.

The Palace official phoned a network officer at the height of the standoff on Feb. 26 and asked that ABS-CBN stop both its coverage and live broadcast of the event, Maria Ressa said.

PALACE/A6

### UNTOUCHABLE?

## DOJ junks P151-M tax evasion case vs Lee

By Michael Lim Ubac and Armand N. Nocum

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE dismissed last year a P151-million tax evasion case against a "dummy" corporation of suspected smuggler Samuel Lee on the grounds that the Bureau of Inter-

nal Revenue had charged the company's previous batch of officers, not its current ones.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on Wednesday said that Lee was not "untouchable."

The tax evasion case against Columbia Sports Philippines Inc. was filed in April 2005 in the jus-

tice department. It took the department under Gonzalez only six months to dismiss the case.

"We find no merit in the complaint," said the four-page resolution penned by State Prosecutor Edwin Dayag on Oct. 28, 2005. It noted that the "record is replete with documentary evidence sug-

gesting that herein respondents were not the responsible officers."

Lawyer Joan Agbeppa of the BIR's Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) task force lamented that Gonzalez's action in the case of Columbia Sports prevented the DOJ/JUNKS/A18

### The elderly look after each other with caring hands

By Blanche S. Rivera

IN HOLDING THE WITHERED, caring hand of another, even those who have been left behind feel that they are not alone.

Faced with family members leaving for work abroad, the elderly in the country are learning to care for each other through a home care assistance program of the Coalition of Services for the Elderly Inc. (Cose).

Cose, an umbrella of 45 organizations for senior citizens, has trained more than 470 home care assistants, masseurs and community gerontologists—specialists on aging and the problems of the aged—who serve the elderly in Metro Manila.

"Home Care is essentially older persons caring for older persons,"

said Ofelia Hispano, a volunteer caregiver from Commonwealth in Quezon City.

"There is nobody left at home to take care of us, so we will take care of ourselves," she said.

Cose relaunched its Home Care Assistance Program (HCAP) at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City yesterday to urge local government leaders to replicate the program in different cities and municipalities nationwide.

Under the HCAP, the elderly—defined by law as those 60 years and older—are trained to check blood pressure, pulse rates and other respiratory indicators, bathe and feed bedridden patients, give first aid and counsel those who are suffering from depression.

Community gerontologists are

THE ELDERLY/A6



LIKE MOONBEAMS in their delight to have finished a grade level through the distant learning program of the DepEd's Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao (BEAM), the children of the Tagakaulo tribe in Malita, Davao del Sur, look forward to the next level but that would mean hours of walking and crossing rivers.

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PHILIPPINE BUREAU

### 'Fantastic' role model, trailblazer, buried today

By Fe Zamora and Cyril L. Bonabente  
PDI Research

WHEN ESTEFANIA ALDABA-LIM is laid to eternal rest today, her six children would most probably be still thinking she would have outlived them all.

"She was so energetic we thought she'd live past 90," award-winning TV journalist Cheche Lim-Lazaro said of her mother.

Her remains are at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Interment rites will be held after the 9 a.m. Mass.

Aldaba-Lim, one of the coun-

FANTASTIC/A17



## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over central and western Visayas including Palawan which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy with rainshowers.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, FOR RESEARCH/STORY/PHOTO SOURCE: PAGASA

## Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Other Regions	Rain
Albay	Partly Cloudy	Bohol	Rain
Antique	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Rain
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	San Carlos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains
Quezon	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

## Solon's arrest delays budget

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE FUROR OVER THE purported arrest of party-list Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel is threatening to derail approval of the 2006 budget in the House of Representatives, which is working hard against a March 20 deadline imposed by Speaker Jose de Venecia to approve the measure.

Since Monday, the House has been conducting marathon sessions on the budget proposals of the different departments and their attached agencies.

Albay Rep. Joey S. Salceda, chair of the appropriations committee, said he expected the budget, at P1.05 trillion the biggest ever for the country, to get past floor debates and plenary approval by March 20.

But just before the House opened plenary hearings on the P35.5-billion budget of the Philippine National Police, the biggest chunk of the P45.6-billion budget of the Department of Interior and Local Government, Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador served notice that he intended to turn the budget hearing into an interrogation of police and interior department officials on Baraquel's "arrest" at a women's rally last Wednesday.

"We will confront each other here," Virador told a press conference, saying he wanted the DILG and PNP officials who were at the hearing to defend their proposed budgets to explain what he called the "iron-handed" treatment of Baraquel and the six



REP. BARAQUEL: Invited or arrested?

party-list representatives, including himself, who were accused of rebellion at the height of the state of emergency last week.

"They arrest you as if they were the law. They have no respect for the Bill of Rights, or the Miranda rights," said Virador who was arrested by police in the Davao City airport on Feb. 27.

Virador, who has been placed under House custody along with the five militant lawmakers threatened with arrest, said the circumstances of his arrest were "fool."

"They blocked my path, then held me by my neck. The team leader even ordered [his men] to handcuff me when I resisted," said Virador.

Baraquel fired the first salvo, berating the police soon after Bulacan Rep. Wilhelmino Alvarado finished his sponsorship speech.

"If I was just being invited, why was I accosted by two plainclothes policewomen and why did they con-

tinue to drag me even if I was already resisting?" Baraquel asked. "What kind of invitation was it when it was not conveyed?"

After consulting with Metro Manila police chief Vidal Querol, Alvarado said Baraquel was taken to Camp Karingal "to be protected."

This prompted Minority Leader Francis Escudero to snap, "So... was she invited or was she protected?" He obtained the names of the two policewomen, with Alvarado promising that the police would submit the list of the other arresting officers later.

With a two-week allowance for the printing of the books accompanying the General Appropriations Act of 2006, the budget should be on the Senate floor by the first week of April, said Salceda.

The budgets of 11 departments and agencies led by the Office of the Vice President, the judiciary and the DILG were scrutinized yesterday.

Scrutiny of the budgets of the most powerful departments—the Office of the President, the budget, finance, transportation departments and the Executive Branch offices like the Office of the Press Secretary and the National Telecommunications Commission—have been reserved for the last day of the deliberations, leaving the minority with only a day to check, or protest, the budgetary increases.

With a report from Norman Borda-



COUNSELLOR. President Macapagal-Arroyo greets Pampanga Archbishop Pablos Arce on his 69th birthday yesterday at the Mother of Good Counsel Seminary chapel in San Fernando Pampanga. The bishop had good counsel for Ms Arroyo: Dialogue with political groups and respect human rights. (MANANING PHOTO)

## 2 groups of news dealers at odds over PDI's new scheme

By DJ Yap

A GROUP OF NEWSPAPER DEALERS announced yesterday it will boycott the INQUIRER beginning March 13 if it does not drop the broadsheet's new distribution scheme.

But another group of dealers denied that a vote had taken place at the meeting, saying many of them were willing to sit down with INQUIRER executives to negotiate.

The newspaper dealers were reportedly angered by the INQUIRER's plan to streamline its distribution system.

Danny Jose, chair of the Print Media Dealers Organization of the Philippines (PMDO), said the new setup would relegate the group's members to "sub-dealer" status and risk their service tenure.

The Newspaper, Magazine, Comics Dealers Association of the Philippines (NMCDAP), which claims a bigger membership than PMDO, said the decision to boycott the INQUIRER was rammed through by Jose's group, which had called for the meeting yesterday at the Amoranto Stadium in Quezon City.

## No votation

"There was no votation at all, only a shouting match between the groups," said Philip Mendoza, acting president of NMCDAP.

In a meeting with Rene Reinoso, INQUIRER senior vice president for sales and marketing, and Raymond Rivera, INQUIRER Publication Inc. circulation manager, the NMCDAP said a boycott would be its last resort if the talks proved fruitless.

The group said it appreciated certain aspects of the new distribution scheme, such as the provision giving them "territorial integrity."

Reinoso said the new distribu-

tion plan was intended to ensure that there would be "no break in the supply chain."

It also seeks to eliminate "infiltrators" or dealers who penetrate markets designated for others, he said.

"They [the INQUIRER] will appoint an exclusive distributor for each region and we will become sub-dealers," Jose said.

No representative of the INQUIRER attended the meeting, he said. But Dave Valdes, INQUIRER COO said no officer from the paper was invited.

The group had had meetings with INQUIRER executives, who were "insistent" on pushing through with the plan, Jose said.

The scheme has been in operation in Central Luzon for two months now, he said.

"What we want is for the INQUIRER to eliminate this system. If they go back to the old system, there will be no more problems," he said.

## Any change difficult

In a statement, Valdes also explained the paper "started introducing improvements to the old distribution system to provide better service to our readers."

"We wanted to correct inefficiencies such as overpricing, late deliveries and non-availability [of newspapers]. The new system does not alienate the dealers. In fact, we have invited and will continue to invite them to join the program which we believe will further grow their businesses."

"We understand that any change is difficult. In fact, we would have welcomed the opportunity to meet with the dealers group to discuss how we can work together, but we were not invited to their meeting. At the end of the day, what is important for us is to satisfy our readers," Valdes said.

## Senators justify pay hike for gov't workers

By TJ Burgonio

SENATORS YESTERDAY JUSTIFIED their decision to grant a P2,000 pay increase to over one million state workers effective July 1, saying this would help them in the face of the high prices of goods and services.

Voting 14 to 3, the senators on Wednesday night approved Senate Bill No. 2196 and House Bill No. 5013 allocating P13.1 billion to fund the pay hike for the 1.3 million government employees this year.

The senators raised the pay hike to P2,000, from the P1,000 proposed by the House, on the suggestion of Sen. Sergio Osmeña III.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had also signed on Feb. 28 Administrative Order No. 144 authorizing the grant of P1,000 in additional compensation to government employees, including policemen, soldiers, firemen

and other uniformed personnel.

"If we approve a P2,000 increase, they [workers] will be getting an increase of 16.3 percent [in purchasing power] if the average pay is about P12,000 a month. Inflation this year is estimated to be 7.6 percent," Osmeña said.

The Senate and the House will have to meet in a bicameral conference to reconcile their respective versions of the wage bill.

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. said the P2,000 increase to be given beginning the second half of the year would cost the government P13.1 billion. The first P1,000 which would be given the first half of the year would cost P6 billion.

The funds for the P1,000 increase would come from the 2005 reenacted budget, while the money for the P2,000 raise would come from the 2006 budget, according to Villar, chair of the Senate committee on finance.

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# Erap wants live coverage on TV when he testifies

DEPOSED PRESIDENT ESTRADA SAYS he wants live media coverage when he testifies in his plunder trial even as his lawyers have asked the Sandiganbayan Special Division to postpone his March 15 court appearance.

The ex-movie star said he wants his performance recorded by the media "so the people may know firsthand the truth" (sic).

"I believe the people want to know the truth," he said, adding that he would ask his lawyers to make the necessary petition.

Even as he spoke, however, his lawyer, Rene Saguisag, had already asked the court for a postponement, pleading lack of time to prepare.

"We cannot in all probability be ready on March 15 for reasons beyond our control," Saguisag said in an urgent manifestation.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said he was not surprised at the request for postponement as he noted that the real objective of the defense panel was to delay the trial.

Saguisag explained that Estrada's eye operation "caused the loss of a week of preparation."

Estrada underwent surgery to re-



ESTRADA

move a conjunctival cyst in his left eye in late February.

Defense lawyer Jose Maminiano said Estrada's doctors had said their patient should not be made to read voluminous documents while he is recuperating from his eye operation.

He said Estrada's being accused of having helped to finance the Feb. 23 aborted coup also contributed to the decision not to appear in court on March 15.

Yet another excuse cited by Saguis-

ag was that the members of Estrada's defense team were also busy "lawyer-ing" for other clients besides Estrada.

He again reiterated an earlier request that Estrada be transferred from his Tanay, Rizal resthouse detention to his San Juan residence for the duration of his testimony so his lawyers can ostensibly confer with him.

Estrada meanwhile defended the P8 million donation that he made to the Armed Forces units that are alleged to have been involved in the failed coup plot.

He has admitted to giving P4 million to the First Scout Ranger Regiment, P3 million to the Marines, and P1 million to the families of the Magdalo group of soldiers being tried for the failed July 2003 coup.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group is investigating if the P8 million was used to fund the latest destabilization attempt.

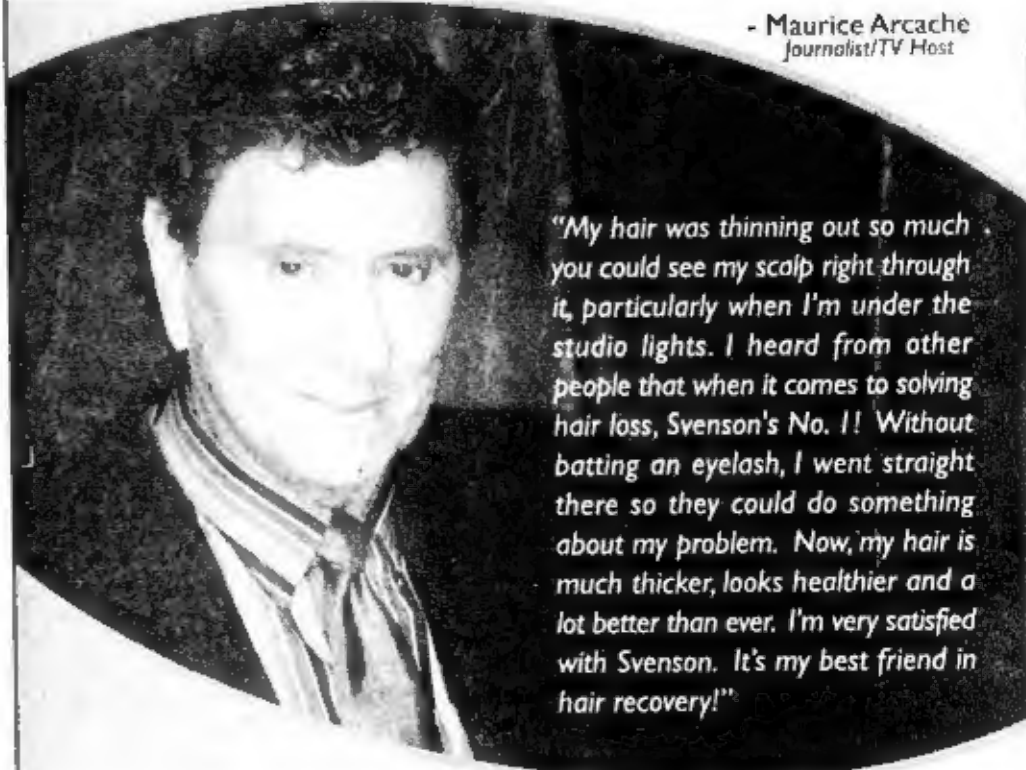
Estrada said the donation was part of his commitment to the military when he was still in power.

"I promised to give scholarships to the soldiers' children and for their family expenses," he said.

He said his Saludo sa Kawal Pilipino Foundation was organized for this purpose. **Nelson F. Flores**

## "When It Comes To Solving Hair Loss, Svenson's No. 1!"

- Maurice Arcache  
Journalist/TV Host



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## New election to settle LP row — Defensor

By Christine O. Avendaño

HOW TO SOLVE THE ROW AT THE Liberal Party? Hold new elections, according to Presidential Chief of Staff and newly installed party chair Michael Defensor yesterday.

Defensor, who belongs to the LP faction that launched last week a coup that ousted Senate President Franklin Drilon as party president, said his group was

amenable to the holding of new elections to settle the row within the party.

"The solution here is simple. All we need to do is to call all our members and hold elections," he told reporters in Malacañang.

The party has been split since July last year when the faction of Drilon called for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The move taken by Drilon was not

supported by the LP faction of party chair, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who last week held elections and ousted Drilon from the leadership. President Arroyo led the oath-taking of the new party officials under Atienza's leadership.

But Defensor said the holding of new elections will settle "once and for all" the row between the two factions.

## BIR sacks 4 employees for corruption

FOUR EMPLOYEES OF THE BUREAU OF Internal Revenue have been dismissed from service for corruption, the finance department said yesterday.

The BIR employees were found to have collection shortfalls or misappropriated government funds, the finance department, the head agency of the BIR, reported.

The dismissed BIR employees include Melanda B. Alid, Nelida R. Jabile, Aida B. Rey and Emilio K. Espacio.

"This is part of our continuing efforts to cleanse the ranks of rotten eggs. This should show that the government is ready to crack the whip for a more honest and efficient bureaucracy," said Finance Undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza Jr. who chairs the DOP's Board of Personnel Inquiry and Review.

According to the DOP statement, Alid, former revenue collection agent for the municipalities of Baliguan and Siocon in Zamboanga del Norte, was found to have incurred a cash shortfall of P2.38 million for the periods January 1990 to October 1991, and January 1992 to June 1999.

The DOP said Alid failed to remit the shortfalls despite repeated demands.

Fabile, the revenue collection agent for San Jose, Antique, allegedly tampered with official receipts and misappropriated funds, among other offenses.

Rey, the revenue collection officer assigned in Iloilo City, was found to have incurred shortages amounting to P1.65 million for the period covering June 2000 to May 2001, and August 2001 to August 2002, the DOP said.

The government agency added that Rey failed to account for 579 sets of official receipts. Rey, who is not on official leave and has not resigned, has not shown up for work since April 2003. **Michelle V. Remo**

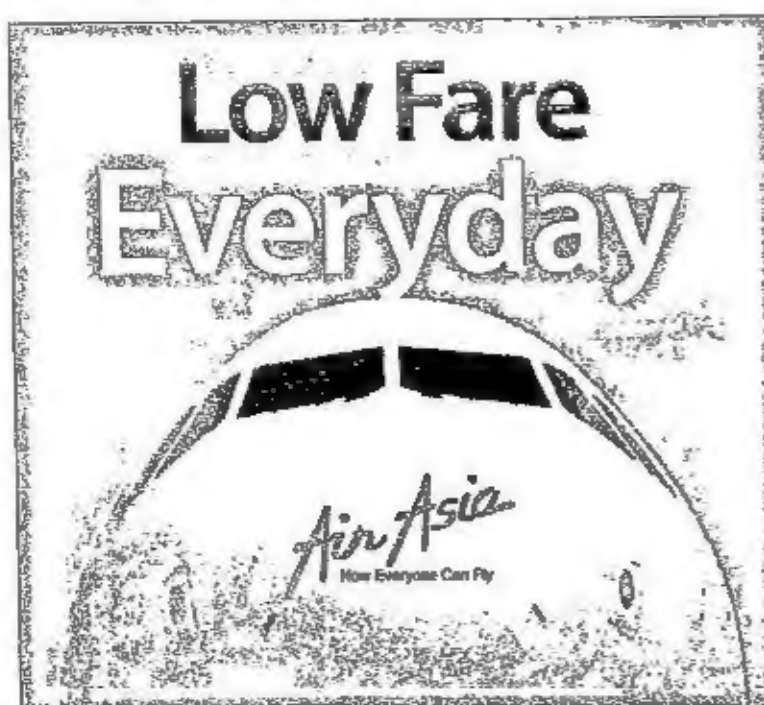
## GMA aide takes over as spy chief

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S senior military aide assumed command of the controversial Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) yesterday as Isafp chief Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo retired from the service.

Commodore Leonardo Calderon, reportedly a relative of Ms Arroyo, was supposed to take over Isafp nine months ago when Quevedo was sacked last June 8, or two days after Malacañang released the explosive "Hello Garci" wiretapped tapes.

Quevedo, who was apparently blamed when the wiretapped conversations between the President and elections commissioner Virgilio Garcillano tapes got into the opposition's hands, however managed to hang on to his post until he reached the mandatory retirement age of 56 yesterday.

With Ms Arroyo's trusted military aide taking over Isafp, the military is expected to remain reluctant to investigate the "Hello Garci" scandal that raised questions about Ms Arroyo's elections victory.



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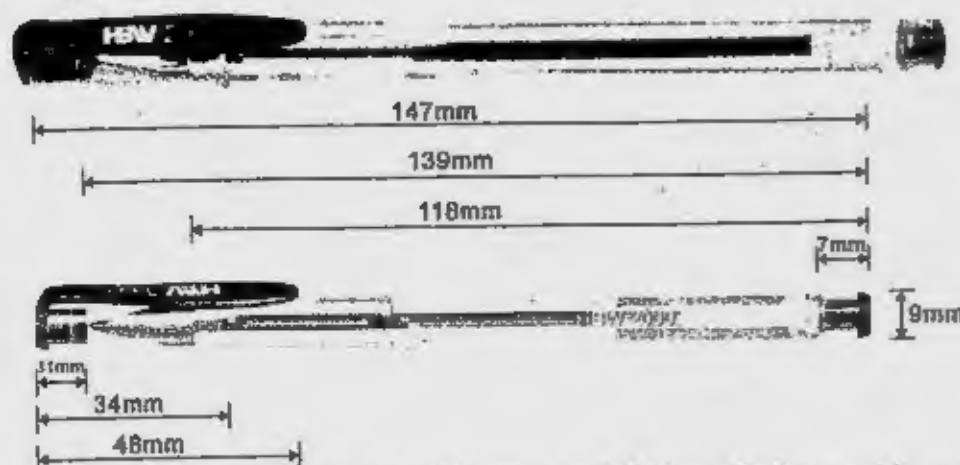


# Environment groups to sue Reyes

## WARNING TO THE PUBLIC

"HBW 2000" is a brand name and trademark of high quality imported ballpoint pens manufactured abroad and distributed by HBW Enterprises, with offices located at Suite 1003 Tiyana Plaza, Plaza Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo, Manila. HBW Enterprises has pending patent applications for its Industrial Design, as well as the Trademark, with the Intellectual Property Office, with Application Serial No. 03-2006-000012.

It has come to the attention of HBW Enterprises that a ballpoint pen using the same design has appeared in the market. The size, color and appearance of the product are similar to the original HBW 2000. To guide the consumer, below is an illustration of the ballpoint pen.



We would like to warn the public about the imitation ballpoint pen. May we advise the general public not to purchase the imitation HBW 2000 ballpoint pen. To be sure, purchase HBW 2000 ballpoint pens only from authorized and reputable dealers and outlet stores.

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By Blanche S. Rivera

LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER assuming his new post, Secretary Angelo Reyes has been threatened with his first lawsuit by environmentalists whose cause he vowed to protect when he took over the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Sixteen environmental organizations under the Ecological Waste (Ecowaste) Coalition served Reyes with a notice to sue on Wednesday for his alleged failure to close down some 1,000 open and controlled dumps that should have ceased operating by Feb. 16, 2006.

A notice to sue is a prerequisite to filing a citizen's complaint against parties that do not comply with Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The Ecowaste Coalition gave Reyes 30 days to shut down the unsanitary dumps or face charges of violating Section 37 of RA 9003, which mandates the conversion of open dumps to controlled dumps by 2004 and of controlled dumps to sanitary landfills by 2006.

"It is in this light that we call on you to immediately implement the provisions of Section 37, it being a duty expressly imposed by RA 9003 upon the DENR," said the Ecowaste Coalition in its three-page notice to sue.

"Your failure to do so within the 30-day period... will compel



REYES

us much to our regret to institute a citizen's suit against you to compel you to perform your duty under the law," the group said.

Open dumps should have been closed by Feb. 16, 2004, and controlled dumps by Feb. 16, 2006, but there are still 996 dumps operating all over the country, according to the National Solid Waste Management Commission.

In his first press briefing on Feb. 16, Reyes said he would support local government officials' moves to extend the deadline for the closure of all dumps, citing the inability of local governments to build landfills and materials recovery facilities.

Ecowaste lawyer Amang Mejia said the citizen's suit provided for under Section 52 of RA 9003 is a potent tool to hold government officials accountable for their failure to implement RA 9003.

"It is time to invoke this provision because RA 9003 has been violated repeatedly since it became law in February 2001," Mejia said in a statement.

# Hunt is on for general's wife, sons

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN SHERIFF YESTERDAY launched a hunt for the family of former Armed Forces of the Philippines comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia (ret.) a day after the antigrift court issued warrants for their arrest in connection with the P303-million plunder case filed against them by the Ombudsman nearly a year ago.

Sheriff Ed Urieta said the warrants would be served at the last known address of Garcia's wife Clarita and their sons Ian Carl, Juan Paulo and Timothy Mark in Iloilo. He said copies of the warrants would be given to the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Immigration.

Urieta said he had received information that Clarita and Ian Carl were in the country while Juan Paulo and Timothy Mark were abroad.

"We are still verifying this information," Urieta said.

On Wednesday, the Sandiganbayan Second Division ordered the arrest of Garcia's wife and sons and recommended no bail for them.

The court issued the arrest orders after it upheld the Ombudsman's finding of probable cause to prosecute the accused for conspiracy to amass at least P303.2 million in alleged ill-gotten wealth between 1993 and 2004.

Aside from the plunder case, the Garcias are facing a P143-million forfeiture case in the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division.

The Ombudsman had also filed four perjury cases against the retired general for alleged misdeclaration of wealth.

Last year, a general court-martial sentenced Garcia to two years at hard labor after he was found guilty of corruption. He was also dishonorably discharged and his pay and allowances, including his pension, were forfeited.

Garcia is detained at Camp Crame.

## BEHOLD..JESUS is COMING!

"Look, I am coming soon Blessed are those who obey the prophecy written in this scroll."

I, John, am the one who saw and heard all these things. And when I saw and heard these things, I fell down to worship the angel who showed them to me. But again he said, "No, don't worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers the prophets, as well as all who obey what is written in this scroll. Worship God!"

Then he instructed me, "Do not seal up the prophetic words you have written, for the time is near. Let the one who is doing wrong continue to do wrong; the one who is vile, continue to be vile; the one who is good, continue to do good; and the one who is holy, continue in holiness."

"See, I am coming soon, and my reward is with me, to repay all according to their deeds. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

Blessed are those who wash their robes so they can enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life. Outside the city are the dogs — the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idol worshippers, and all who love to live a lie.

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne.

\* I am the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let each one who hears them say, "Come." Let the thirsty ones come — anyone who wants to. Let them come and drink the water of life without charge. And I solemnly declare to everyone who hears the prophetic words of this book: If anyone adds anything to what is written here, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book. And if anyone removes any of the words of this prophetic book, God will remove that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are described in this book.

He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!"

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.

Revelation 22: 7 to 21

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WORSHIP and GLORIFY JESUS CHRIST..!

## Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, A FRONT-PAGE STORY — "ONE WOMAN in women's mind on Women's Day" — had an erroneous translation of a Filipino quote attributed to Carol P. Araullo, chair of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan. Araullo's actual quote was: "Pinapakita niya (Ms Arroyo) ang pinakamasahol na katangian ng machong lalake na hambog." The English translation should have been: "She (Ms Arroyo) shows the worst qualities of an overbearing macho male" — not "She (GMA) shows the worst qualities of masochists."

## THE DAILY GOSPEL



Friday, March 10, 2006  
1st Week of Lent

1st Reading: Ex 18:21-28  
Gospel: Matthew 5:20-26

Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you, then, that if you are not righteous in a much broader way than the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven."

"You have heard that it was said to our people in the past: Do not commit murder; anyone who does kill will have to face trial. But now I tell you: whoever gets angry with a brother or sister will have to face trial. Whoever insults a brother or sister deserves to be brought before the council; whoever calls a brother or a sister 'fool' deserves to be thrown into the fire of hell. So, if you are about to offer your gift at the altar and you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with him, and then come back and offer your gift to God."

"Don't forget this: be reconciled with your opponent quickly when you are together on the way to court. Otherwise he will turn you over to the judge, who will hand you over to the police, who will put you in jail. There you will stay, until you have paid the last penny."

**Commentary**  
We must look to ourselves and change. God desires us to repent and stop doing evil in our lives, so that we might live both now and forever with God. We are to, in turn, start to do virtuous deeds. These exhortations of the prophet echo our second baptismal promise: Do you promise to resist evil and refuse to be mastered by any sin, evil, violence or injustice? Jesus reinforces this, saying that not only is the act evil but the intent behind it. We are not to kill, not with intention, words, slander, lies or abusive language, let alone actually murdering another. We must stop killing, be reconciled before we dare approach God in prayer.

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  - c. Business Permit
  - d. BIR/VAT Certificate
  - e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
  - f. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years if applicable

2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for bid documents during the pre-bid conference.

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(PDI - March 10 & 17, 2006)



## PCGG to hale Sandigan to SC on Lucio Tan cases

By Alcuin Papa

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD Government said yesterday it would ask the Supreme Court to reverse a recent Sandigan-bayan decision ordering the government to lift a sequestration order on four companies owned by raipian Lucio Tan.

PCGG Commissioner Narciso Nario said the commission was unfazed by the setback and that issue of sequestration of Tan's companies was not over.

"This is subject to an appeal to the Supreme Court through the Solicitor General. We will elevate this to the SC as this is the final arbiter," Nario told reporters.

He added that only the Supreme Court could order them to finally lift the sequestration on Tan's companies.

PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio was to meet with other PCGG officials late yesterday.

The PCGG is the agency tasked to recover the allegedly ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies.

In a March 2 decision released Wednesday, the Sandiganbayan ordered the government to cease further involvement in the control and management of Allied Banking Corp., Fortune Tobacco Corp., Foremost Farms and Shareholdings Inc.

In a statement issued after the decision came out, Tan said he would get back at past officials of the PCGG involved in the sequestration of his flagship companies, citing former PCGG Chair Jovito Salonga.

Salonga dismissed Tan's threat. "I am distinguished by the kind of enemies I make," he told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

PCGG Commissioner William Dichoso said Tan could not go after the agency itself or its present officials because they were protected

by the provisions of Executive Order No. 1 which created the agency. President Corazon Aquino issued the order shortly after she assumed power in 1986.

Tan's companies were sequestered by the PCGG a few months after the 1986 Edsa revolution on suspicion he was a crony of the deposed dictator and served as his business front. Tan has denied the allegations.

"That is his defense. That is how he wants to present himself. But the final arbiter is the Supreme Court," Nario said.

Meanwhile, Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) said the PCGG should "still pursue the sequestration case against Lucio Tan."

"It should file a motion for reconsideration and give the money back to the victims of martial law. It should do its homework and get back the ill-gotten wealth by all means," Ramos said.

He added: "The PCGG should stop being a wallflower and work for the interest of the Filipino people."

The PCGG seized Allied Bank on June 19, 1986 on the strength of a writ signed by then PCGG Chair Salonga and the Commissioner Ramon Diaz.

On July 24, 1986, the PCGG also took control of Fortune Tobacco and Shareholdings Inc. based on writs of sequestration signed by Diaz and then Commissioner Quintin Doromal.

The last to be seized was Fortune Farms which was served a writ on Aug. 12, 1986 based on authority signed by Diaz and then Commissioner Mary Concepcion Bautista.

After the four companies were placed under PCGG sequestration, Tan said Allied Bank suffered at least three bank runs. He also said Foremost Farms lost 11,000 hogs while Fortune suffered "big losses."

## No mandatory rest days for Singapore maids

SINGAPORE—SINGAPORE'S MAN-power ministry rejected calls to make rest days for maids mandatory, arguing it would inconvenience families with special needs. The Straits Times newspaper reported Thursday.

"Some households have elderly or infirm members with special needs who require constant attention and may find it difficult to release the domestic worker for a prescribed period

every week," said Hawazi Daipi, senior parliamentary secretary for manpower, in Parliament on Wednesday.

Instead, Hawazi said, the government wanted consumer watchdog bodies and maid employment agencies to implement standard employment contracts that stipulate monthly or weekly rest days.

The ministry's refusal to legislate days off for maids came as a disappointment to activists who have been calling for do-

mestic workers to be protected under the city-state's Employment Act, which states how many days rest an employee is entitled to each week, the newspaper said.

US-based Human Rights Watch said in a report in December that many foreign maids in Singapore endure harsh working conditions as well as severe abuse such as physical and sexual violence, and aren't protected adequately by labor laws. AP

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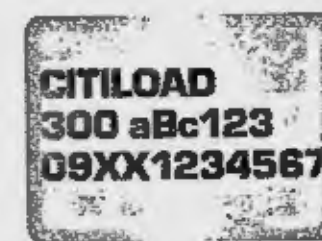
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## Solons reject Angara proposal on Cha-cha

By Michael Lim Ubac

EVEN BEFORE IT COULD TAKE OFF, SEN. Edgardo Angara's proposal for a snap election—which in effect would cut short the terms of the country's two highest officials—was promptly shot down by the majority in the House of Representatives.

Congressional leaders yesterday dismissed Angara's proposal as "recycled and baseless."

Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., vice chair of the Commission on Appointments, recalled that the idea was first raised by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. last year during the Senate inquiry into the "jueteng" scandal which implicated members of the First Family.

Pichay pointed out the suggestion was resurrected at the height of the "Hello Garci" wiretapping inquiry by the House, also last year, which nearly crippled the Arroyo administration.

"New laws are prospective and not retroactive in nature, meaning any move to amend the Constitution should have no impact on the terms of the sitting president and vice president," Pichay said.

He said he had "such a high regard for the legal mind of Senator Angara but it would be best if he restudied his position on the matter."

Any proposal that would shorten the President's term would not be supported by the House majority although they favor Charter change and a shift to a unicameral legislature,

according to Majority Leader Prospero Nograles.

Angara, the leader of Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, the largest mainstream opposition party, refused to be embroiled in a tiff with allies of the President.

He said the nation should not be deprived of a "great debate" on his proposal to amend the Constitution but limit the changes to re-vamping the Commission on Elections and holding early presidential polls, which would cut short Ms Arroyo's and Vice President Noli de Castro's terms.

"The proposal should generate further debate and discussion, so that we will be able to get as wide a spectrum as possible on these important issues," Angara said in a phone interview.

Speaker Jose de Venecia and the House majority want to abolish the two "gridlock prone" chambers of Congress and replace them with a French-style unicameral parliament headed by a powerful prime minister.

But under their proposal, President Arroyo would remain in office until the end of her term in 2010.

Nograles said Angara's proposal was "not provided for by law and it will be an expense that will not cure the problem"—which is that those against the President will not stop trying to oust her.

"Let's just follow the Constitution which set her six-year mandate and we won't have problems," he said.

## Appeals court junks plea vs Philcomsat land deal

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS DISMISSED A complaint against sequestered firm Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat) and its subsidiary, Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC), over a land deal with a private company.

The appeals court's First Division threw out the petition filed by Philcomsat minority shareholders led by Victor Africa against Philcomsat director and PHC president Manuel H. Nieto Jr. over a memorandum of agreement signed with Ansear Realty and Development Corp. (Ansear).

The agreement, which was signed in August 2000, calls for Philcomsat's acquisition of 12 parcels of land along Investment Drive in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, totaling 65,737 square meters for P755.97 million at P11,500 per square meter.

The MOA allowed Philcomsat to acquire the property through a possible merger with Ansear. However, if the merger does not push through, the MOA shall be in the form of a loan extended to Ansear president Antonio Araneta to be amply secured via a deed of real estate mortgage executed by Ansear.

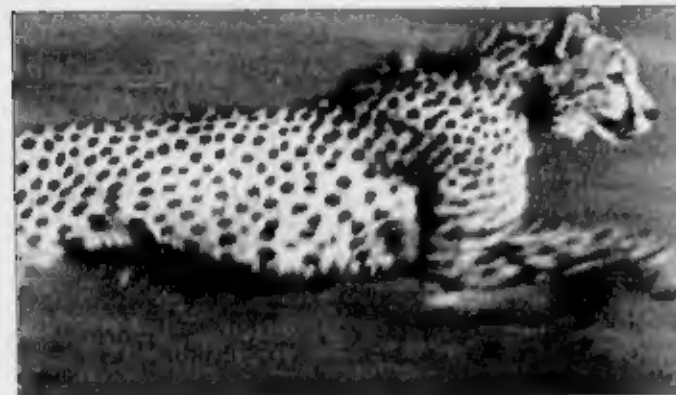
Philcomsat extended a P390-million loan to Araneta with an initial disbursement of P265 million while PHC shelled out another loan for the balance. The loan was for settling the existing liabilities of Ansear for the Alabang property.

For his part, Araneta issued an interest-bearing promissory note as well as a deed of real estate mortgage in favor of Philcomsat for five parcels of the Alabang property as additional security.

The Africa group had questioned the deal saying the deal was not duly ratified by the company's board and stockholders.

Africa and a group of minority shareholders had formed their own board at Philcomsat and refused to recognize the original board of directors led by the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

The Africa group had first filed a complaint against Nieto and Philcomsat's majority shareholders in 2002 before the Branch 64 of the Metropolitan Trial Court of Makati City over the land deal which was dismissed for lack of merit. A subsequent motion for reconsideration was likewise dismissed.



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# Palace asked ABS-CBN to stop live broadcast

From page A1

Ressa said that after the Palace official was rebuffed, Michael Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff, aired a public appeal for all journalists to stop covering the event, which ABS-CBN also turned down.

Ressa, along with other media executives, testified at the inquiry of the Senate committee on justice and human rights into the government crackdown on the media during the state of emergency declared by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 24-March 3.

Chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo, the committee opened the inquiry after senators filed a resolution condemning the raid on The Daily Tribune newspaper office and the warrantless arrests of protesters and party-list lawmakers.

The committee is specifically tasked to look into a meeting of the members of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas called by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

The meeting was called supposedly to discuss the possible revoca-

tion of the franchise (or the takeover) of media companies engaging in biased reporting or publication of matters affecting national security, the raid on the Tribune and the 6 p.m. curfew imposed on the Malacañang Press Corps.

## Info critical in crisis

On Feb. 26, a group of Marines led by Col. Ariel Querubin massed at Fort Bonifacio to protest the relief of Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, their commandant.

They returned to barracks after a six-hour standoff.

"On Sunday, during the Fort [Bonifacio] standoff, we did receive a phone call from the administration asking us to stop airing," Ressa said at the Senate hearing.

"[The message] was very short. It was 'Please stop broadcasting.' And then when it was relayed to me, I just said, 'No, we can't. We can't stop broadcasting.' And then we went ahead," she said.

Ressa said network officials felt that if they stopped their coverage, it would have caused "far more panic among people, because they would

want to see what's going on."

She added: "Information in times of crisis becomes more critical. We did not listen to it. A public appeal was made by Secretary Defensor asking the media to stop covering it."

"Even that public appeal I questioned because it again goes against the freedom of the press. There is a legitimate conflict, whether internal or external, and it had national repercussions for the Filipino public, and we continued airing as is."

Ressa said the network officer who spoke with the Palace official immediately turned down the request and did not need to consult with other ABS-CBN executives.

"It was an immediate response ... There were several key decisions made that day, given Presidential Proclamation No. 1017. The first one was: 'Do we air Querubin's statement?'" she said.

"Our decision-making tried very hard to balance everything because there is freedom of speech for everyone. At the same time, there is the interest of the state, and the Filipino public. We were balancing everything," she said.

Jessica Soho, GMA 7 vice president for news and public affairs, said her network did not get a call from Malacañang.

## Repeal urged

While their predecessors might have inadvertently agreed to it, executives of the rival networks ABS-CBN and GMA 7 now want a provision in their franchise repealed because it allows the President to take over broadcast sta-

tions in times of emergency.

The provision states: "A special right is reserved to the President of the Philippines in time of war, rebellion, public peril, or other national emergency, when public safety requires, to cause the closing of said stations or to authorize the use and operation thereof by any department of the government without compensation to the grantee for the use of said stations during the continuance of the national emergency."

The network executives yesterday sought the repeal of the provision, arguing that it was unconstitutional and an assault on press freedom.

Senator Arroyo agreed with the executives that it was unconstitutional, but stressed that the Senate had to hear the government side before making a decision.

However, NTC Commissioner Ronald Solis and his deputy commissioners, as well as Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao, skipped the hearing, citing different reasons.

Arroyo reminded the broadcasting industry that the NTC did not exercise any powers beyond allocating frequencies once a congressional franchise was granted, and collecting fees.

"I personally think that this [provision] is unconstitutional. I can understand the mind-set of the franchisees when the franchise was given to them. And [since] it's there, the tendency is just to accept it," said ABS-CBN external counsel Mario Bautista.

"Even under martial law, the Bill of Rights is not suspended,"

he stressed.

Arroyo brought up the provision, which is found in the franchise granted by Congress to broadcast companies, in the context of asking the resource persons if the President could arbitrarily take over stations during a national emergency.

## No arbitrary takeover

Dick Perez, GMA 7 vice president for legal matters, contended that the President could not arbitrarily take over a broadcast station under a national emergency if any of its reporters erred in his or her reporting.

"We agree that the commission by a particular broadcaster of sedition or rebellion should not result in the closure of the entire station or a takeover," Perez said.

After hearing their lawyers' arguments, the heads of the two networks' news departments asked the Senate to take steps to repeal this provision in their franchise.

"It will be in our best interest, in my humble opinion, if you take that section out," Soho told Arroyo.

Said Ressa: "I'm not a lawyer, but obviously, as head of news, I would love to see this repealed. I do think this goes against not just the Philippine Constitution and the Bill of Rights; it goes against press freedom issues."

But KBP executive vice president Reggie Julialbal said the President's takeover of the media during a national emergency would be temporary.

"While we would prefer that the provision not be there, in the current situation, we interpret that to

mean ... that the takeover is only temporary, as it's stated there, and only for the purpose of providing information to the public," he said.

## Infirmity

After the hearing, Arroyo said there was "a constitutional infirmity" in the provision.

"It cannot be imposed. Even if it's there, the President cannot just take over television stations," he said.

But he added that he had to first listen to the views of NTC officials.

"You boxed yourselves in here by agreeing to Section 5, which has been there for 10, 15 years. I don't want the government saying, 'Look, why is Congress reneging on what it granted?' he told the broadcast executives.

Arroyo also said he hoped Lomibao and the NTC commissioners would attend the next hearings on the print media and radio.

## Don't invoke 464

He warned that his committee would be forced to come out with a resolution even if these officials boycotted the proceedings.

"We regret that General Lomibao and Commissioner Solis did not come when they are the regulators, or the offices that the President used to, well, limit press freedom," he said.

"So we will give them a chance, and I hope they do not invoke [Executive Order No. 464]," he added, referring to the President's order barring government officials from testifying at congressional inquiries without her say-so.

# Bayan exec killed; Amnesty Int'l alarmed

From page A1

eral Renato Reyes identified the victim as Santiago Teodoro. "He was the 12th activist killed in Central Luzon this year," Reyes said.

Central Luzon police chief Alex Lapinid confirmed Teodoro was killed at the boundary of Malolos and Plaridel.

Reyes said Teodoro was in a car when a motorcycle blocked its path. "He got hit in the neck," Reyes said.

In its statement earlier, Amnesty International said comments by senior government officials linking leftist groups directly to communist insurgents threatened "to create a climate within which further political killings may take place."

"Amnesty International continues to be greatly concerned at reports of an ongoing pattern of political killings of members of legal leftist organizations in various provinces nationwide," the statement said.

It urged the government to conduct prompt, thorough and impartial investigations of all the killings.

"In order to combat impunity, the authorities must also send a clear, unequivocal message to all members of the police, military and other security forces that involvement in, or acquiescence to, such unlawful killings will never be tolerated," it said.

The Associated Press quoted the main left-wing party, Bayan Muna, as saying that more than 80 of its members and officers had been assassinated over the past five years—including 32 last year.

## 95 killed since '01

But an INQUIRER count, based on recent news reports and a special report previously posted on the webpage of Bayan Muna, showed that up to 95 officers and members of various leftist groups had been killed since April 15, 2001.

Bayan Muna has accused the military of instigating the killings and organizing death squads, a charge repeatedly denied by military officials.

The party is led by Rep. Satur Ocampo, former spokesperson of the communist-led National Democratic Front.

Ocampo and four other leftist legislators have been holed up at the House of Representatives since Feb. 27, three days after Ms Arroyo declared a state of emergency to thwart an alleged coup plot. Ms Arroyo lifted the emergency a week later.

The police have threatened to arrest the

five legislators if they step out of the House of Representatives compound.

Amnesty International said that in connection with Ms Arroyo's emergency decree, the "political Left in particular may have been targeted for a repeated series of arrests on a variety of spurious charges."

Police have arrested a former labor leader, Rep. Crispin Beltran of the Anakpawis party, and charged him with rebellion.

## Beltran release urged

Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante, chair of the House committee on human rights, yesterday urged the government to release Beltran and place him under house arrest on humanitarian grounds.

"Congressman Beltran is already old and sickly. If they can't release him altogether, why not just place him under house arrest," Abante told reporters.

The military has accused Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and other left-wing groups of supporting the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, which has been waging an insurgency for 36 years.

## Restrictions

Amnesty International reminded the Arroyo administration that restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly during emergencies should be "strictly proportional to the dangers posed to the rights and freedoms of others."

It said that in the government's counterinsurgency operations, arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial executions and torture by security forces continue to be reported along with abuses by the NPA. With reports from AP Norman Bordaadora and Luige del Puerto

# The elderly look after ...

From page A1

those who not only undergo training in health care but also in the social sciences. They are the elderly who are taught where to refer other old people who may need assistance from government and private geriatric clinics.

## Feeling unloved

"The problem of old people is that they feel nobody loves them anymore. Their children are always out working, and depression sets in. What we do is we listen to them, let them talk about their youth and things they love," home care assistant Felicidad de la Cruz said.

"All they really need is time," she said. The Philippines is one of the top labor exporters in the world, with about 1,500 Filipinos leaving for abroad every day. The country is the world's No. 1 source of nurses and health care workers.

## Doubled-edged problem

This leaves many of the country's 5.4 million old people without care. They have the added burden of having to care for their grandchildren left behind by their children.

"The migrants leave older persons and force them to take care of others they left behind. That's a double-edged problem for elders," said Josefina Cabiligon, a Cose board director and Sociology professor at the University of the Philippines.

Home care volunteers in the community are trained to take care of more vulnerable older people who may not have companions at home during the day. They regularly check in on their "patients" and friends.

"Everyone grows old, but as long as you

have a vision and a mission for yourself, you will not get depressed," De la Cruz said.

The 69-year-old retired teacher serves in the Roxas district in Quezon City where she has five patients. This she does even while caring for her 74-year-old diabetic sister who suffered a stroke.

## Nanny to grandchildren

Gerontologist Crispelo Migrño, 62, plays nanny to his two wheelchair-bound grandchildren. One is obese and another has polio. Both of them rely on Migrño and his wife for support.

Migrño, a former salesman who has four children and nine grandchildren, said he decided to render community service since 1997 because he felt that after having sent his children to school, it was time to serve beyond the confines of his home.

"This is our way of giving back to God what He has given us. Being healthy at this age is already a blessing," De la Cruz said.

## Making up for shortcomings

Lumen Babista has another reason for serving as home care assistant in Commonwealth. Caring for other old people is her way of making up for her shortcomings in providing care for her late mother.

"It makes me happy to see them waiting for me. I don't need any payment for this kind of work. A simple 'thank you' is enough for me," she said.

De la Cruz, a music teacher for 29 years, likes to sing in a way that lifts spirits.

"No man is an island. No man stands alone. Each man's joy is joy to me. Each man's grief is my own. Each man is my brother. Each man is my friend," she sings in a lilting tone.

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# Crackdown in AFP widens; 25 held

From page A1

Ruben Guinolbay, personnel chief, and Lt. Col. Nestor Flordeliza, chief of staff, both of the Scout Rangers. He said the two had been relieved of their posts.

"Being a good officer cannot be a license to do unauthorized activities," said Esperon of Guinolbay. "There is probable cause to investigate him. He is being investigated."

Esperon told a news conference at Fort Bonifacio that several other officers and men of the Scout Rangers were being held and were undergoing investigation but declined to give details other than that one of them was a lieutenant colonel.

He said he would announce in two or three days the names of those to be court-martialed for their involvement in the plot to oust Ms Arroyo two weeks ago.

Sources who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters said that in addition to Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Maj. Jason Aquino, eight other officers and 17 men had been detained in three military camps in connection with the alleged plot to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo.

Twenty-four of the detained officers and men belonged to the Scout Rangers, the Army's foremost fighting unit. One of the soldiers detained belonged to the Special Operations Command.

## Inquiry still in progress

"I will confirm to you that we are investigating several officers from the Scout Rangers ... It is a matter of an investigation in progress," Esperon said.

"We are trying to investigate their links or probable participation in marching down the streets. What we have is not conclusive so we want to be very thorough about it because we want to be certain that when we throw the full force of [the] law against them, they are getting punished for what they have done," he added.

INQUIRER sources said that four of the officers were being held at Scout Rangers headquarters in Camp Tecson in San Miguel, Bulacan, two in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, and the other two officers and 17 enlisted personnel at the Army 9th Infantry Division in Pili, Camarines Sur.

"They are restricted awaiting recommendations of the Army Inspector General who investigated them," said one official who asked not to be named.

Guinolbay gained prominence in the now infamous June 2001 "Lamitan siege" in Basilan where his troops fiercely fought with Abu Sayyaf rebels who were eventually cornered in a hospital-church compound. The rebels were able to escape using their hostages as human shields. The hostages included three Americans, seized from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

## Gold Cross awardee

Guinolbay, who lost a number of his men in the battle, was awarded the Gold Cross, the military's third highest combat award, and was referred to as the "hero of the Basilan siege."

Esperon said Flordeliza was being investigated "for failure to report unauthorized activities."

Lim was relieved as Scout Ranger commander on Feb. 23 after he and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin reportedly informed Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga of their plan to join the protest rallies on Feb. 24 and withdraw support from the President.

Although Lim had been previously linked to coup plots, he had risen quickly to become one of the youngest officers to attain star rank.

Ms Arroyo proclaimed a state of national emergency early on Feb. 24, citing an alliance of communist New People's Army guerrillas, rebel soldiers, politicians and businessmen plotting to overthrow her.

She lifted the proclamation a week later, saying the plot had been aborted.

The 58-year-old President has been hounded by questions of legitimacy since last year over allegations stemming from the "Hello Garci" wiretaps that she stole the 2004 election. She has denied the charges.

In his appearance at the NBI, Lim said he was neither part of a coup plot nor of an alleged alliance between military and communist rebels.

Aquino, Lim's former operations chief, was arrested on Feb. 27 as he reported for duty at Army headquarters. He was accused of recruiting Army personnel for a "destabilization" plot.

## Lim plotted to oust GMA

Asked about Lim's denials, Esperon told ANC television that Lim had told Senga of his plan to join the march organized by opposition politicians to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the EDSA 1 People Power Revolution.

"Yes ... That's what they told the chief of staff. They planned to join the march," Esperon said. "We are trying to investigate further ... there could be a violation of his oath of office."

Esperon skirted a question on whether there appeared to be wider military participation in the Feb. 24 incident and whether more officers would undergo questioning.

"We want to be very comprehensive about it to prevent incidents like this," Esperon said. "There was a coup. We're going into that."

Defensor told Palace reporters that ABC-5

TV had a taped interview with Lim, during which he declared he was breaking away from Ms Arroyo but that the video, which was never publicly shown, was missing.

## Clear evidence

He said the government had "clear and strong evidence" against the alleged coup plotters and that ABC-5 "will be critical" in the investigation. He said the ABC-5 interview with Lim was the "leak" that led Ms Arroyo to strike against the plotters on Feb. 24.

In the House of Representatives, Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon, a former Moro National Liberation Front commander, also expressed doubt at Lim's denials.

"Any coup plotter would not openly admit his misdeeds. His denials do not clear his name. The fact remains that ... Senga divulged that Lim prodded him to join the coup plot," Macarambon said.

"It's Lim's word against Senga's word. But we believe General Senga will not put his po-

sition, name and stars on the line," he said.

Malabon-Navotas Rep. Federico Sandoval said Senga had just hurdled the Commission on Appointments which vouched for his integrity and capability to lead the AFP.

"General Senga would not destroy his name and the trust and confidence of his Commander in Chief," Sandoval said, "by fabricating stories against Lim."

"What would he gain from sowing intrigue among his fellow officers," he added.

Sandoval said that Colonel Querubin had confirmed the plan for them to join the protests against the government during a standoff at the Scout Rangers headquarters in Fort Bonifacio on Feb. 26.

"Granting, for the sake of argument, that they only intended to join the rallies, it's not for these soldiers to march in the streets to protest. Lim is of star rank and therefore must have a deeper appreciation of military processes and responsibilities," Sandoval said.

With a report from Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordaora

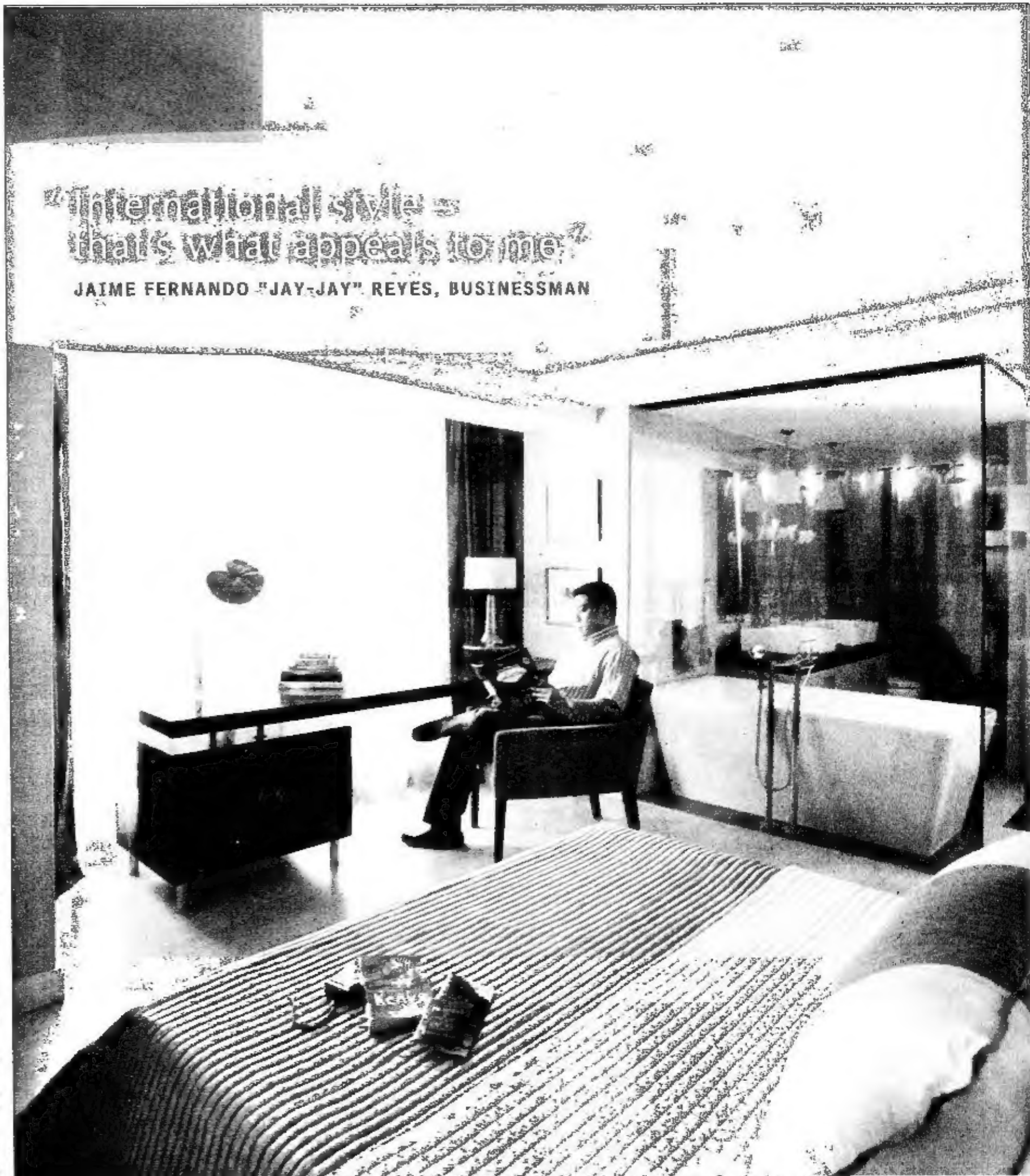
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# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

## Iran: US to suffer 'pain' in return for sanctions

VIENNA—IRAN WARNED THE UNITED STATES ON WEDNESDAY it could inflict "harm and pain" to match whatever punishment Washington persuades the UN Security Council to mete out over concerns Tehran is secretly seeking atomic bombs.

"So if the United States wishes to choose that path, let the ball roll," Tehran national security official Javad Vaeedi said.

Iran and the United States, arch-foes since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, clashed at a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's governing board called to consider an IAEA report that says Iran is accelerating nuclear research.

After 2-1/2 years of US pressure on the IAEA to refer the matter to the Security Council, the board removed the last remaining roadblocks to that step. The move came after Iran rejected proposals by Western powers for a compromise solution.

IAEA director Mohamed ElBaradei's report was e-mailed to the council later in the day, the agency said, and will form part of the basis for any UN action over Iran's nuclear program.

Diplomats said the council would probably start debating Iran next week and US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns said it would be Monday or Tuesday.

The five permanent members of the council met to discuss a statement that Britain, France

and the United States are preparing for possible adoption next week.

The statement was to have asked for a report from the IAEA in 30 days on whether Iran had cooperated with UN nuclear and suspended its atomic activities, diplomats said.

But one envoy said Britain now wanted a 14-day deadline, while no immediate decision had been reached among the five—the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France.

The IAEA board decided a month ago to send Iran's nuclear dossier to the Security Council, as long as it deferred any steps until after ElBaradei's findings were presented.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said sanctions mooted by Washington to bring Iran to heel would not work, a reminder that Moscow could veto any punitive crackdown on Iran.

Iran, the world's No. 4 oil provider, also said it would review its oil export policy should the council tackle its case, which EU powers said was now inevitable as Tehran had flouted demands to prove it was not secretly seeking atom bombs.

Reuters



### PARK'S LEGACY

A 1942 photo "American Gothic, Washington, DC" by photographer Gordon Parks. Parks, the first black American photojournalist for Life magazine and the first leading black filmmaker with "The Learning Tree" and "Shaft," died March 8, 2006 at his home. He was 93.

## US, Canada, Australia at 'high risk' of bird flu

PARIS—THE UNITED STATES, Canada and Australia are at very high risk of bird flu infection, an international veterinary organization warned Wednesday as the World Health Organization called for the creation of an African multibillion-dollar fund to offset economic losses from the disease.

The Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) said the current H5N1 bird flu pandemic could spread to the US, Canada and Australia.

"The probability of this strain appearing in Australia is very high. The possibility is also very high for the United States and Canada," OIE Director General Bernard Vallat told a French parliamentary commission.

Those three countries have so far escaped being caught up in the spread of the H5N1 strain of avian flu, which originated in Asia in 2003 and which has since spread to the Middle East, Africa, Russia, Turkey and Europe.

Vallat said detailed analyses of the widening area hit by the disease showed a "pessimistic" outlook for Australia, Canada and the United States. AFP

## Thaksin deal to proceed despite turmoil

BANGKOK—SINGAPORE'S STATE-linked investment firm Temasek on Thursday looked set to acquire full control of Premier Thaksin Shinawatra's telecoms giant Shin Corp. despite a political furor over the deal.

Outside the Singaporean Embassy in Bangkok, thousands of Thais threatened a wide-ranging boycott of goods from the city-state and demanded Temasek scrap the takeover of Shin Corp., founded by Thaksin before he entered politics.

He transferred control in 2001, when he took office, to his family who made \$1.9 billion tax-free after selling a nearly 50-percent stake to Temasek, sparking public outrage that has snowballed into mass weekly protests demanding the premier's resignation.

"I hope that there is no incident (at

the embassy). We can explain everything" to Singapore, Thaksin told reporters in Chanthaburi, east of Bangkok.

Temasek's purchase sparked concerns about foreign ownership of a company that has key interests in telecoms, satellites, media and aviation.

"We will wait for an answer from the embassy until 4 p.m. If we don't get the answer or the answer is unsatisfactory, we will start boycotting Singaporean goods and services immediately," said Rosana Tositrakul, a member of the anti-Thaksin People's Alliance for Democracy.

The embassy said it would not get involved.

"The Shin Corp.-Temasek deal is a private sector deal, done purely on a commercial basis. The Singapore gov-

ernment does not interfere in the business and operations of Temasek Holdings," it said in a statement Thursday.

"The Singapore government is not involved. Singapore companies doing businesses in Thailand are required to observe the laws of Thailand," it said.

Temasek is making a tender offer to buy all the remaining Shin Corp. shares, as Thai regulators require when a significant stake in a company is sold.

"We are proceeding with the tender offer as required by Thai law. The tender offer will end at 4:30 p.m. today," a Temasek official said.

Temasek has offered to buy Shin Corp. shares at 49.25 baht (\$1.26) per share, up 12 percent from Wednesday's market close of 44.00 baht. The

offer will expire at 4:30 p.m., the closing of the Thai market, on Thursday.

In addition to the nearly 50-percent stake from Thaksin's family, retail investors holding about 16 percent stake in Shin Corp. had "agreed to accept Temasek's tender offer as of early March," the Temasek official said.

Temasek is expected to announce details of the tender offer on Tuesday, the official said, shrugging off rumors in Bangkok that Temasek might cancel the deal due to escalating political tensions against Thaksin.

Anti-Thaksin groups on Wednesday threatened to boycott nearly 100 companies and products linked to the premier, ratcheting up the pressure on him to resign.

The boycott list includes several top international brands, such as Toyota, Heineken, Nescafe and Seven-Eleven.

Among Shin Corp.'s companies are Thailand's biggest mobile phone operator Advanced Info Service (AIS), which controls over 50 percent of the mobile phone market with 16.3 million subscribers. AFP

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# Israel-built wall causing major changes, says UN

GENEVA—EAST JERUSALEM IS UNDERGOING major changes because of a new wall through Palestinian neighborhoods aimed at reducing the number of Palestinians in the city, a UN expert said in Geneva on Wednesday.

In a report to the UN Human Rights Commission, John Dugard, special rapporteur on human rights in the Occupied Territories, said the Israeli-built wall was causing major humanitarian problems.

"The character of East Jerusalem is undergoing a major change as a result of the construction of the wall through Palestinian neighborhoods," he said.

"The clear purpose of the wall in the Jerusalem area is to reduce the number of Palestinians in the city by transferring them to the West Bank.

"This causes major humanitarian problems: Families are separated and access to hospitals, schools and the workplace are denied."

The independent expert recalled that the wall between Israel and Palestinian territories and described by Israel as a security measure, had gone ahead despite a 2004 ruling by the International Court of Justice.

The basis for a future settlement between Israel and the Palestinians remains the so-called "road map" of 2003 "which is hopelessly out of date and which envisaged an end to the conflict by the end of 2005," said Dugard.

The European Union, the United States, United Nations and Russia make up a so-called quartet sponsoring the roadmap, which provides for the creation of an independent Palestinian state alongside a secure Israel.

The blueprint has made next to no progress since it was endorsed by the Israelis and Palestinians in 2003 amid continuing bloodshed.

"It is suggested that the roadmap be revised to take account of present realities and the 2004 advisory opinion of International Court of Justice," Dugard continued in his report.

## Gunmen seize 50 Iraqi workers

BAGHDAD—GUNMEN IN POLICE COMMANDO uniforms seized some 50 employees from a private security firm Wednesday in Baghdad, amid renewed sectarian tension and a destabilizing political stalemate in Iraq.

Security officials said the gunmen stormed the Al-Rawafed security company headquarters in the east of the capital and made off with all the employees at gunpoint.

The officials could not immediately say if the gunmen were from the interior ministry or if the employees had been kidnapped by insurgents disguised as police commandos.

The incident came less than 24 hours after police found the bodies of 18 men crammed into a minibus in a mainly Sunni Arab district of west Baghdad. They had been shot or strangled, medics at Yarmuk hospital said.

They wore civilian clothes that were soaked in blood and the faces of several of them had turned blue, an AFP correspondent reported from the hospital morgue.

Two more bodies were discovered overnight Tuesday elsewhere in the city.

Interior ministry officials, fearing that talk of sectarian violence might trigger a fresh outbreak in bloodshed between majority Shites and minority Sunnis, refused to say if the killings were sectarian in nature.

In other violence on Wednesday, at least 11 Iraqis were killed and scores of others wounded in a series of rebel attacks. The dead included four Iraqi policemen and two soldiers.

The US military announced that one of its soldiers had been killed and four wounded in a roadside bomb near Tall Afar in northern Iraq on Tuesday.

This brought to at least 2,302 the number of US military personnel killed in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion of the country, according to Pentagon figures which were last updated on Tuesday.

The latest round of violence came as the US ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, acknowledged that the US-led invasion had opened a "Pandora's box" of ethnic and sectarian tension in the region.

The bombing of a Shiite shrine in the northern town of Samarra on Feb. 22 triggered the worst sectarian violence since the invasion and has left hundreds dead, mainly Sunnis.

"It is essential that the Quarter be guided more by human rights considerations and the Court's advisory opinion in its handling of negotiations," it said.

The report to the UN was immediately condemned by the Israeli UN envoy to the UN rights panel, who said the document was pursuing "manifest political ends."

AFP

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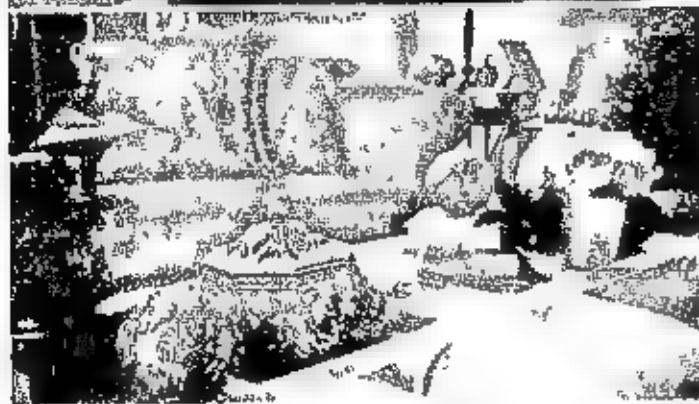
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## Better in Bangkok

IN ONE OF THAILAND'S LEADING ENGLISH dailies, The Nation, an op-ed piece appeared yesterday, titled "In defense of our scapegoat Constitution." In it, the author, Tulsachit Taptim, says that the present charter of Thailand was bought with the blood and tears of pro-democracy demonstrators who mounted People Power. The writer says, "This Constitution already provided everything we could possibly need. It enshrines a strong recognition of citizens' rights, with mechanisms prescribed to support enforcement. It provided for a new system to monitor, investigate and punish corrupt officials and politicians. Checks and balances under this Charter were supposed to be our best ever. Our first elected Senate was meant to be a chamber of independent and forward-thinking minds."

But what happened? The writer asks. "When [Prime Minister] Thaksin and his wife were found to have stashed Bt10 billion worth of shares in his servants' accounts, this Constitution was screaming, 'STOP HIM!' Its writers, headed by respected figures that included Anand [Panyarachun, one of the fathers of Thai People Power now in opposition to Thaksin], had anticipated something like this, so they put in place tough restrictions on politicians' involvement in business and stipulated punishments for anyone lying about what they owned. The mechanisms were there to put Thaksin away, but in the end, his landslide election victory interfered with the nation's conscience, and the rest is history."

The writer goes on to conclude, "If this Constitution cannot contain Thaksin or clean up Thai politics, making it transparent and accountable, then no Charter can. We could not have imagined a better system of checks and balances... What a shameful travesty of justice it is, to blame such an excellent charter, albeit one that has found itself undermined by the corrupt nature of politicians and society's lack of courage, for the very existence of corruption. Our problem is that we always expect our Constitution to give, while we hardly contribute to it."

To think that in Thailand, protesters are wearing yellow and resorting to People Power because a prime minister is accused of engineering constitutional amendments for his own private benefit; and that despite Thaksin's willingness to hold snap elections, a boycott of elections is being taken seriously.

It is the height of irony that in Thailand, which our local plundering politicians keep pointing to in envy—look at their economy, they say, look at their lovely parliamentary system—the Thais have taken it upon themselves to keep People Power alive. And for all his other actions, their prime minister is not only eager to throw himself at the mercy of the electorate—he has not cracked down on his protesting countrymen. And to think, Thaksin is not, by any means, a timid peacenik.

An essay currently being circulated by Juho Rey Hidalgo, a businessman, quotes the poet's line, "As to forms of government, let fools contend; what is best administered is best." Whether in Thailand or Manila, putting up constitutions as straw men to deflect attention from the shortcomings of leaders is neither a fair nor rational tactic. All it can result in is an insistence on "moving on," but a country confronted with a leadership that's lost the public's trust will not move on until the legitimacy of the ruler is resolved.

When we proposed a referendum as a means of resolving the questions surrounding President Macapagal-Arroyo's legitimacy, there was opposition—no funds for such a referendum were available; and even if the funds were there, they would be better spent on a referendum on Charter change. And yet, as Sen. Sergio Osmeña III has pointed out, if the President could push for a supplemental budget for a national budget that hasn't even been passed, surely a budgetary obstacle to holding a referendum could not possibly exist.

If investors aren't in a panic in Thailand, it's not only because they expect Thaksin to survive the political crisis; it's because confronted with an angry population, the Thai prime minister is democratic enough to let his people vent their anger in the streets and is unafraid to throw the question of legitimacy to his people.



## Ate Glue is 'God's will' on us?

## As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

Ate Glue as our President despite the efforts of destabilizers is proof of that. We have the "best" leader within God's gift to give, and she is GMA. We should all sing "Hallelujah," thank God and resign ourselves to whatever His anointed throws at us.

GMA says we are in a state of national emergency and that communists, soldiers and opposition groups are trying to unseat her. She asks the media, the people, the police and military come to her rescue and put their faith in her and believe whatever she says and obey.

Come to think of it, we are having all these problems because we don't want to obey her. How dare we disobey God's apostle? If we would obey GMA all the time, we wouldn't have any trouble. If she says she won "fair and square" in the 2004 elections, let's believe her. She speaks with the voice of God. Even if evidence points to the contrary, let's believe her. Evidence can be wrong; GMA can never be wrong. She has been placed where she is by God, even if 80 percent of Filipinos don't want her there. But it's the remaining 20 percent who will be saved on Judgment Day. The rest will be lost.

As for the women of the Philippines marching in the streets during International Women's Day to demand the ouster of GMA, ironically one of their own, they shouldn't be out in the streets. They should be home taking care of their families. That is why the police dispersed them—so they would go home to their families.

As we all know, policemen love women so much that some of them have two or more wives. They know how lonely a home is with-

out the wife and mother there. They were only trying to preserve the Filipino home when they dispersed the women marchers. We should be thankful we have policemen who love their women and homes so much.

If they hauled some of the women off to Camp Karingal, bless them all. It was to protect these women from harm when the marchers were dispersed. Who knows, they could have accidentally bumped their heads against the clubs and shields of the policemen during the dispersal? Of course, no policeman would ever willfully club a woman. The only way women can be hurt is for them to bump their heads and bodies against the clubs and shields and the police don't want that to happen. So they were taken to Camp Karingal for their protection. And while there was violence during the dispersal, weren't these chosen women spared?

Honestly, I don't understand why these women are marching against Ate Glue. They should be proud that we have a woman President. And not just any woman, but an honest one who doesn't lie, cheat or steal—in fact, "the best" there is, according to her.

Well, she may have told little white lies and cheated a little during the 2004 elections, but as I have said earlier, those were God's will. Who are we to question the will of God?

As Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told the press, "Nobody can go against God's will, I tell you. Not even, oh my gosh, the religious, the men of the cloth. In the end, it is God's will that will prevail..."

"Everything that we are in this universe is God's will," Ermita continued. "Where you are situated, where we are, that is God's will. All that we know is that if we believe in God, we know that God has deemed us to be something, to be someone."

Malacañang's theme song is now "Que Sera, Sera." What ever will be, will be.

P.S. I know that the government is monitoring media. I hope this column will get me off the hook.

## Love in the time of 1017

## PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

wait for Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to charge me with "Exciting to Sedition." That's fine, Your Honor, but let's just make sure my arraignment is not scheduled on my wedding anniversary!

The government is poised to prosecute some negligent TV network officials and public officers for the spontaneous stampede by the crowd at the PhilSports Arena. How about injuries during involuntary stampedes willfully caused by the Philippine National Police?

There is something unreal about the mood of the town. The papers show images of a smiling and relaxed President, side by side with photos of a phalanx of anti-riot police wielding truncheons and geared for battle. I read such glowing economic reports, see a robust stock exchange and a strong peso, but I grieve at the televised image of that mother crying over her OFW daughter's mysterious death.

Shouldn't we take these contrasts as part of the propaganda that "malicious segments of the media" allegedly spread against the President? Not quite. President Arroyo has appropriated for herself the image of normalcy, and has tarred and feathered her enemies with the image of disruption.

Her swift revenge—Ateña's coup at a government-organized seminar-turned-party convention of the Liberal Party, the purported guidelines for print and broadcast media, the quick revival of old criminal charges against Gregorio Honasan and Crispin Beltran, and the arrest warrants issued for his fellow members at Bayan Muna—have surely antagonized the op-

position, whom she has ceased to court anyway. But to the waffling Filipino middle class, perhaps it conveys an image of strength and determination, the Machiavellian virtue, the will to power, that Nicolo prescribed to his patron Lorenzo de Medici. President Arroyo's clever response to the crisis has upped the ante in Philippine politics. She has dared the fates and done the unthinkable, and seems to have gotten away with it.

When Malacañang announces that life is now back to normal, I ask myself: But isn't our "normal" something to be escaped, rather than restored? The day after the state of emergency was declared, I was a guest at Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program together with PNP Director Vidal Querol. During a break in the program to receive traffic reports, the field reporter radioed back: "The rallyists have dispersed and traffic is back to normal." VP Noli animatedly shot back: "Di kang normal, ibig sabihin, ma-traffic na nga."

But there was another exchange that lingers in my mind. When the Vice President first asked the reporter, "O, nasaan ka na ngayon?" the reporter half-in-jest retorted: "Ah, pwede ko ho bang sabihin yon on-the-air? Baka bawal?" It was a welcome moment of levity, but a grim reminder of the perils of the chilling effect.

By pushing her enemies into the streets and then provoking them into public melees with the police, President Arroyo may actually be courting the business and middle classes, who long for business-as-usual and distance themselves from the political, the ideological and the passionate. But then she leaves no other option but a military coup, at which point she will drape herself in the very Constitution she has debased.

Remember Judge Learned Hand's words in "The Spirit of Liberty": "Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it."

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

I MARKED THIS PAST TUESDAY AS A SPECIAL day in my calendar. On that day, the Supreme Court scheduled the oral arguments on the petition filed by Randolph David and others, challenging President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency, and I was going to argue as counsel for the UP professor. But even more special, it was my wife Beth's birthday.

So when Beth asked me the night before what seemed like a routine question, "So what is your schedule tomorrow?" I should've known it was a trick question—the kind that I frankly did not expect until the next day's hearing, and so I let down my guard!

I told her, clinically and with no-nonsense, well, the Court will start the session at 1 p.m., so I have to meet with the other lawyers at 9 a.m. at UP and then meet up with Professor David later in Manila, and then go to the Court's session hall around noontime. I then nonchalantly said that the oral arguments were expected to go on until late evening (and indeed it went on until 10 p.m.!).

And then came the query in her melodic Ilongga voice, "So when can we have dinner?" I knew I was trapped. I was the hunted, and the hunter was going for the kill. I immediately felt a "chilling effect," and while I entertained thoughts of declaring a state of emergency, I realized I might be charged with usurping her commander-in-chief powers.

All is well, I assure you, and Beth gamely joined me the whole day for the Supreme Court hearing, patiently sitting out her celebration-less birthday. We basically had our "date" in the Court's session hall. The only grilling I got that day was the more than two-hour interpellation I endured under the venerable justices, before whom I stood in awe like a law student being made to recite his assigned case.

That romantic leftist, the Argentinean doctor Ernesto Che Guevara, said: "At the risk of seeming ridiculous, let me say that the true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love."

Now that I have used the "R" word, just you



## A crippled democracy after 1017

AFTER THE REVOCATION OF PROCLAMATION 1017, President Macapagal-Arroyo left in place the mechanisms of control of the press not seen since the overthrow of the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos 20 years ago.

Soldiers and police on the premises of an insignificant newspaper and the two largest TV networks may have been pulled out following the lifting of the proclamation, but the Philippine press continues to be under a state of national emergency and faces imminent threat of censorship, reducing to a farce the claimed existence of a democratic state in the Philippines.

The farce is more sharply accented by the fact that constitutional guarantees of freedom of the press exist, the government has not formally installed a dictatorship, as Marcos did 20 years ago, and insists it is a democratic government. This is the glaring contradiction in the Arroyo administration today, after it cancelled its half-hearted attempt to clamp political control.

The media, a non-state institution, emerged from the week-long state of emergency suffering the most impairment among all the countervailing institutions to authoritarian rule, including the Supreme Court and Congress.

After PP 1017, the country did not return to the status quo-ante. Although short-lived, PP 1017 has left the Philippines a crippled democracy with one of its key underpinning institutions—the press—in need of repairs.

Two operational mechanisms of press censorship have remained in place. First, the National Telecommunications Commission continues to monitor radio and television stations for breach of "guidelines" banning broadcasts of "rebellious, terrorist propaganda" and statements that "propose or incite treason, rebellion or sedition." Organizations of journalists have asked the Court of Appeals to stop security officials from "stopping, prohibiting or censoring the publication or airing of speech" deemed inflammatory.

The other mechanism of press control comes in

### ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



the form of intervention from no less than the President who warned, in a post-1017 interview, that she would impose emergency measures again if necessary. "I will not hesitate to do what is needed in order to maintain peace and order in our country," she threatened.

The government has invoked laws involving national security to prosecute newspapers, journalists and editors accused of publishing inflammatory stories to incite public disorder. A charge of inciting to sedition has been laid against the editor and two columnists of The Daily Tribune, which was raided by the police on the same day a state of national emergency was proclaimed. This action goes beyond normal legal restraints on the press, such as criminal libel complaints by offended parties.

On Feb. 24, the President issued General Order No. 5, directing the Armed Forces "in the face of national emergency, to maintain peace, order and safety and to prevent and suppress lawless violence." It declared that elements in the political opposition, in conspiracy with the communists and the extreme right, represented by military adventurists, had engaged in a concerted and systematic conspiracy to bring down the elected government. The President then dragged the press into the coup attempt, saying that "the claims of these elements have been recklessly magnified by certain segments of the national media."

In an attempt at news management and to drive a wedge in the media, the President, in an interview on March 7 with GMA-7 network, gave a lecture on "responsible journalism." She said she was not seeking "praise releases" from the

media but only wanted them to be "fair, responsible and not bordering on sedition" when reporting news (for "responsible" read: non-critical news). With that interview, she intruded into the realm of independent judgment of editors and journalists on what to publish or not publish.

The government may have nipped the coup attempt in the bud, but the brunt of its punitive action fell on the media rather than on the military components of the plot to grab power. Two of the officers implicated by military intelligence and the government in the failed coup did not incur as much presidential wrath than the media. These officers—Brig. Gen. Danilo Lam, commander of the elite Army Scout Rangers regiment, and Col. Ariel Querubin, a Marine brigade commander—had planned, according to military intelligence, to lead their troops in joining a political rally on Feb. 24, at which they were to announce their withdrawal of support from the Arroyo administration to spark wider military defections and a general public insurrection demanding Ma Arroyo's resignation. These officers were relieved of their commands but are now in the custody of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga, receiving lenient disciplinary action.

But the mystery is that while these facts indicate that the most dangerous enemy of the President comes from disgruntled members of the military, which holds the monopoly of armed power given by the state, she vented her fury on the media, a weaponless civil institution, without the means to do violence.

The President's crackdown on media is a sharp contrast to her relatively lower concern over the threat of a military coup. The crackdown and continuing attempt to impose control on the press lend credence to the view that the principal objective of PP 1017 was to muzzle the press, using the aborted coup plot as an excuse. The identification of the press as public enemy No. 1 is a fatal political mistake, which will have disastrous consequences for the regime.

## Women's March

### AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



A PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT, TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY leaders convened by Likhian for a Women's Day symposium on the impact of Presidential Proclamation 1017 on various sectors, made me miss the start of the Women's March last Wednesday on Ayala Avenue.

The march and rally itself was less than a week in the planning, with women leaders from all across the political/ideological/social spectrum getting together and deciding on a united action to demonstrate women's outrage at the Arroyo administration's increasing heavy-handedness.

In previous years, March 8, International Women's Day, was celebrated separately by women's groups, depending on their orientation and inclinations. But drawn together by a common cause—to defend and protect our human rights, including women's rights—women leaders got together to prepare for a massive protest to show our President, who happens to be a woman, that other women were not about to remain silent in the face of growing repression amid the people's deepening poverty.

On the way to Ayala that afternoon, I caught on the radio a report that Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had "revealed" that the Women's March had been planned to "accomplish" what the Feb. 25 Ayala rally was meant to do: to topple the Arroyo administration. Indeed, he had been called to an "emergency" meeting the night before, Gonzalez reportedly said, which was the reason he couldn't put in an appearance at the Supreme Court to defend the legality of the issuance of PP 1017.

Everybody had a good laugh at this report after I finally made it to Ayala. True to the convenors' intent, the program at the end of the march was lighthearted and fun, to a certain extent. While there were a few speeches and chants, there were also songs, dances (onstage and on the street) and poetry readings. If we were planning to overthrow Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, this was certainly a fun way to do so!

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IF the Supreme Court justices still needed proof of the lingering effects of PP 1017, and the dubious legality of the state's response to

the alleged "emergency," they need only to check out news reports about the arrest of Akbayan Rep. Rissa Montiveros-Baraquel.

Literally hauled off to prison after police broke up Akbayan's observance of International Women's Day at the Quezon City Mabuhay Rotunda, Baraquel later denounced her manhandling and the violation of her rights in a privilege speech at the House of Representatives. Another leader of the rally, the Alliance of Progressive Labor's secretary general Joshua Mata, was likewise arrested for violation of the "illegal assembly law."

Baraquel joins five other members of the House who are currently "housemates," having been holed up for more than a week in the Batasan, while police and justice officials scramble to justify their arrest on outstanding warrants on charges of rebellion. With so-called "progressive" legislators in their sights, we can only speculate that it's only a matter of time before the authorities begin moving in and arresting members of the political opposition and anyone who dares criticize the President.

\*\*\*

BUT IF PP 1017 focused our attention on the many violations of human rights committed by authorities, participants at the community leaders' forum, many of them from urban poor communities in Calocan, Malabon, Bulacan and Cavite, spoke of the almost "routine" violations of their rights.

Many times, said a woman leader from Cavite, police have raided their community purportedly to crack down on "criminal elements." Some of her neighbors, said the leader, are still in prison after two years, arrested without warrants and

with no charges being filed against them.

Lawyer Marlon Manuel of the Alternative Legal Group, who spoke on the legal implications of PP 1017, conducted an impromptu "legal clinic," sharing information, specifically conditions that police have to meet before they can legally conduct searches or arrest anyone.

Lacking access to legal advice or services, and even the means to post bail, poor folk have had to compromise their rights as citizens in the struggle merely to survive and be left alone by the state.

Also this week, a man climbed up an overpass and threatened to kill himself out of frustration after MMDA operatives had confiscated his pop corn cart three times. The man told his story after he was calmed down and agreed to go down from his perch, but hearing it, I could only sympathize with a man whose only wish in life was to make a living and earn some money without being unduly harassed by the government. That, to the poor, may be the full extent of what human rights mean.

\*\*\*

HERE are excerpts from "reflections" on International Women's Day and GMA written by Carolina Ruiz-Austria, a lecturer at the UP College of Law.

What does it mean for Filipino women to have a woman leader like President Arroyo at the helm of government at this time?

On a deeper level, writes Austria, "GMA's propensity to back only 'penal' (punitive and surveillance mode) measures for 'women's protection,' isn't an accident." Just as she has interpreted the protection of "national interests" by disregarding constitutional rights, GMA's response to women's rights "reflects her (as well as many others') emerging 'notion' of the 'strong' state (we must violate your right in order to protect them) as the way forward."

"Advocating for welfare and social services in the budget and as part of state mandate in the face of dwindling state services can no longer be dismissed as 'women's sector advocacies.' More than ever it is becoming clear that such engagements are at the core of the contest in defining what our state should be and finally, what true people's empowerment entails."

## Books of manners

### LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



"Fold your blanket, roll your pillow in your mat, and put them aside or in a corner so that they will not bother or disturb."

"Change your dress so that you will not appear as if you have just come out of a pigsty, and at the same time pray the Act of Faith. Your dress, even if it is old or torn, should be smooth and clean because it is not proper that you should appear before other people scrubbing yourself as if you had lice. You should wash your face so that you will not look dirty or smell as if you have just come out from bed."

Urban people will find the animal descriptions quite quaint, and our metrosexuals will probably object to one of the rules that state, "if you are a man, do not let your hair grow long because it is not proper for a man to knot his hair like a woman or to have it falling on his back. It is ugly to see a man who is effeminate."

It was perhaps beyond his comprehension to see women with a shaved head, masculine women, or even men with earrings—not to mention navel, nipple and penis rings.

Then there is a question of good taste or restraint in design. Lito Aterza's loud Hawaiian shirts would have been frowned upon in the 18th century, for "Lagda" dictates: "It is good that your dress should be like a flower, but remember that too many ornaments will make you look like a blooming gumamela. Therefore you should be moderate and should be in harmony with others."

Some rules do not change: "Do not let your nails grow long like the nails of a hawk. Do not blow your

nose with your dress, and do not wipe your mucus with your hands, with your sleeves, your pants or your skirts, and that is why you should carry a piece of cloth or a handkerchief. Do not spit too much, and when you do so, do not face the wind so that you will not spray your saliva on others."

Even posture and manner of walking are not spared: "Walk sedately, your body neither very stiff and erect nor your hips swaying—do not sway yourself like a banana leaf. Do not walk with muncing steps as if treading on glowing embers; do not walk too slow like a worm. Neither walk on the tips of your toes, nor drag your feet as if they were legs being hauled along. Do not swing your arms but put your hand beneath your cloth; if you cannot do this, fold them on your breast."

"Your head should be neither bowed nor held high like that of a chicken when drinking; do not look up at the windows of houses as if you were searching for bees; do not bend your head to one side or another as if a glowworm has entered it; do not open your eyes wide to look around or keep turning your head like a weathercock."

There is simply so much that would be out of date today, thus "Lagda" is read as history and helps us appreciate the world we live in at present.

History is often mistaken to be a look into the past for its own sake. But history only becomes relevant when we see ourselves in relation to the past.

What is it this thing we call "good manners"?

In relation to what? Books of manners are historical documents that tell us what life was like then, and when we compare this to manners in our time we gain perspective, which is a gift much needed in these noisy times.

\*\*\*

Comments are welcome at [docampo@ateneo.edu](mailto:docampo@ateneo.edu)

## In touch

I WAS IN CALIFORNIA WHEN PROCLAMATION 1017 WAS declared. That was the time I got to appreciate both the potentials and limitations of high-tech communications.

Thanks to the international cell phone roaming facility, I was able to get word about 1017 by text from friends in the Philippines and Belgium! I rushed to a computer to try to get news from the INQUIRER site on the internet, but it looked like a million other Filipinos were of the same mind. Traffic was very bad and all I could get were the headlines.

I then turned to cable TV, switching from one channel to another. ABC, CBS, NBC were featuring reality shows and talk shows. Fox was busy attacking American liberals. CNN was featuring a hostage incident in Arizona. The smaller stations had televangelists and tele-marketers on screen.

When the dust settled, I got connected to the BBC through the Internet. CNN eventually picked up on the Philippines, showing footage of what looked like street riots, interspersed with videos of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo proclaiming 1017, without her voice. Text messages which continued to come in from friends and periodic checks with the INQUIRER site's Breaking News—as in every three or four hours—actually kept me more updated than if I had been at home.

We are fortunate, indeed, to live in an age of instant communications. The technology is especially important when you're constantly on the road. So let me share some of what I've learned.

### 'Fong kah'

Cell phones have become indispensable for travel. For overseas trips, it's important to bring your own cell phone with your Philippine SIM. Make sure to have this activated for international roaming. This allows your friends to send you text messages at P1 each, the regular local rate. Sending messages out is another matter because you get charged by your Philippine service provider, as well as by that of the country you're visiting. Each text message costs P10 to P20, after taxes. But be careful with calls. If someone calls you from the Philippines and you answer, the call is charged to you, and at very high rates. If you call out, you get charged with the rates of the country you're visiting, and again, that can come up quite high. Once I had to pay something like P250 per minute.

Remember that this applies as well to local calls, meaning if you're in the United States and calling a US number, you will be charged the American mobile phone rates, something like P25 to P50 a minute.

If you're going to be in another country for an extended period of time, it may be more cost-effective to just buy a prepaid SIM card there. You would then pay the local rates and could avail of discounts and other special deals. Get help, though, from a local because information materials are rarely in English.

An even cheaper alternative is to buy prepaid phone cards. You can get this in different denominations and they give you a local number to call, with a PIN number that you input. In the United States, prepaid cards allow you to call home for as low as 15 cents (P7.50) a minute. You save as well on calls within North America, at something like one cent a minute. Again, check with local residents or Pinoy expats for the cards with the best deals and on how to buy them. In Thailand, walk into any one of the thousands of 7-11 stores and sing out "fong kah" if you're looking to buy a phone card.

VOIP

Cell phones are wonderful—there's something exciting about being able to be in touch from anywhere you are. And I mean anywhere. I've sent text messages out while sitting in the ruins of the Angkor Wat in Cambodia and Borobudur in Indonesia. But while cell phones are convenient, the cheapest way to communicate in this high-tech age is still through computers. There is, of course, the e-mail, which keeps you in touch with family, friends, officemates. (Did I hear you groan?)

The most exciting development with the Internet has been the voice over Internet protocol (VOIP), better known simply as Internet phones. With this system, you use the Web to make phone calls, using a headset plugged into the computer. I can't go into details here in the column, but go into [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com) for the best system yet. If you have Skype in your laptop, or in the computers at home or in the office, you can make Skype to Skype calls for free.

If you are trying to contact someone who still doesn't have Skype installed, GlobeQuest announced last week a web-based phone service, called Innove, which allows calls from the Philippines to Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States at 8.5 cents (US) per minute. That's about P4.50, even cheaper than a local cell call.

There's more, of course, to the Internet than e-mail and VOIP. When overseas, I use the Internet to check the INQUIRER and other papers. Here in the Philippines, I use the Internet even more intensively, regularly browsing—when Yna allows me—through international newspapers and science journals, in between getting information on Yna's teething, vaccinations, language development.

Should you bring your own computer when you travel? Even a small laptop can be cumbersome, so you might want to just leave it at home. Fortunately, you'll now find Internet cafes everywhere, from Kathmandu to Timbuktu. Some offer VOIP. Ask around. In Indonesia, look for signs that read "Warner," which means Warung Internet or an Internet Hut (kubo).

### Boon or bane?

There's still so much waiting to be discovered out there! BBC, for example, allows you to download earlier programs of music, literature and poetry readings and debates, which you can then play back on your computer or an MP3 player.

Our need to keep in touch spurred us to make all these technological advances in communications. But we need to pause at times and think about what it means to be wired, to be connected. My experience with American TV helps me to understand how, in the midst of such sophisticated information technology, Americans still end up so misinformed, so totally ignorant of the world.

The other wonders of information technology have their own allure. Easily, with wireless and satellite connections, one can eventually read the INQUIRER on a laptop, while sitting in the ruins of the Angkor Wat. Or text endlessly to friends back home that we're in Borobudur. We can, but do we want to?

Lester, an Indian friend, has declared Sundays as no-e-mail day. I'm inclined to extend that into a no-computer, no-cell-phone day.

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# A disaster long in the making

I ONCE WORKED AT THE OFFICE of Natural Resources and Development Corp., an ancillary office of the Department of Agriculture. I was assigned to investigate illegal logging in Leyte sometime in 1989.

Here is what I saw: unmarked

trees were cut down and the logs were fraudulently marked, then collected in a log pond atop the mountains. The logs would then be transported through the river stream to another pond before they were hauled to waiting trucks.

Back at the logged-over area, people burned what remained of the cut trees (which were not replaced) and then planted the area with rice and vegetables.

When I submitted my report to my superiors, the illegal loggers became furious. I was asked then

to resign.

What happened to Leyte was a man-made disaster, not an accident of nature.

—JUN BORRES,  
attyjunborres@yahoo.com

## Media can encourage RP youth

I WAS NOT IN EDSA when people ousted President Marcos from power. I was not there either when people drove President Estrada out of Malacañang. I am now here in a foreign land studying, hoping to go back to my country and be a productive citizen.

I am proud to share the rich culture and history of the Philippines. I have high hopes that someday the Philippines will be known for its people's integrity, liberty and unity. Like it was in the past.

But it seems that our people have lost these values. We become so vigilant that we turn into ignoramus. We go into a "revolution" without really evaluating what is happening. I plead with our people, the media and the government to please revive in ourselves our sense of integrity, liberty and unity.

People know that the media have the power to unite a nation or to sow anarchy; the media should use that power wisely. I know we don't live in a Utopia. But there

is a hope that the media can emphasize to encourage the youth to become honest, loyal and productive citizens.

—JAYSON  
PAGADUAN,  
1585 Kalanui St.,  
Lala HI 96762,  
USA

## On Proclamation 1017

TO MY MIND, PROCLAMATION 1017 WAS PART OF THE PLAN—thoroughly studied by the bright boys of Malacañang to extend Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's stay in the presidency. The state of national emergency was declared not because of the alleged tactical alliance of communist guerrillas, the Right and the Center.

The clamor for Ms Arroyo to step down from office ensues from the convergence of so many issues—her failure to improve the economic lot of the Filipino majority, graft and corruption, smuggling, stealing, cheating, swindling, money laundering, the non-resolution of the "Jose Pidal" mystery, lack of government accountability, weak implementation of laws, her propensity to lie, her arrogance. These issues should be enough reason for Ms Arroyo to step down and pave the way for a snap election. This, I think, is the best option to restore sanity in our country today.—Mike M. Moreno (via e-mail)

## VOICES ON INQ7.NET

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is the right Filipino to lead the country at this time. She is tough, smart and resourceful. She has what it takes to be the real leader of this country. Most Filipinos do not have self-discipline. She has to be tough to protect the nation from leftists, rightists, opportunists, adventurers, opportunists and stubborn old-timer politicians like Cory Aquino, Fidel Ramos and the others. The silent majority is smarter now than before.—Franklin Rebutoc (via e-mail)

We indulge in too many speculations and criticize too much. We have so many bright and smart people. We have too much freedom, too much democracy, too much press freedom. Too much is bad.

When there's too much, we have to balance; to balance is to regulate, to prevent the excess from spilling over. Spills cause a mess, which often leads to disorder and disarray.

What is government for if it won't stop the chaos? No other measure is needed in an emergency except emergency powers—to stop the confusion before it leads to anarchy and lawlessness.

Proclamation 1017 is justified.—Godo Arago, California (via e-mail)

President Macapagal-Arroyo should show that she is a strong President. Unfortunately her enemies will not go extinct like the dinosaurs. Why? All of them are power-hungry; they're willing to sacrifice us to the extent that they are now forming an alliance with the communists and the New People's Army. (Take note, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona called them "freedom fighters.")

President Arroyo should show these power-grabbers the true meaning of being President. She should jail them all, most especially the leftist congressman Satur Ocampo and his ilk in Congress!

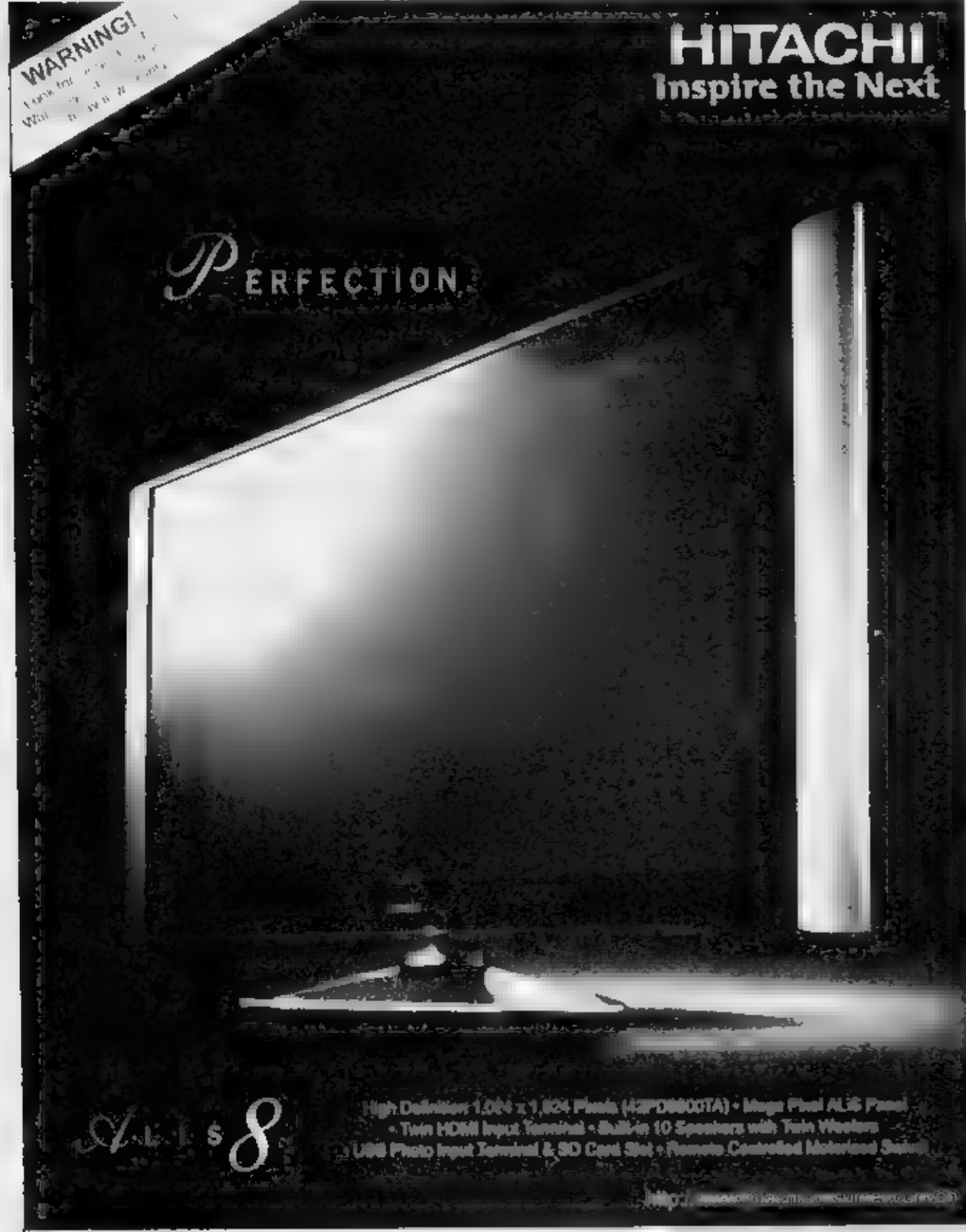
Please, will someone tell the two former presidents to stop fighting the government and work with the incumbent President before the country is swept into total anarchy?—Herson Aquino (via e-mail)

The political crisis will not go away so long as Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sits on a throne, because the opposition will continue to make noise and haunt her for the crisis she has created for herself.

However, to resolve the crisis, I suggest that we amend the Constitution to cut short the term of the President to four years. Or we can have a referendum on whether the President should stay until 2007 or 2008.—George Garuza (via e-mail)

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**INQUIRER**  
TV GUIDE

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Channel	2:30PM	3:30PM	4:30PM	5:30PM	6:30PM	7:30PM	8:30PM	9:30PM	10:30PM	11:30PM	12:00PM
ABC 5	Kapamilya Channel	Project Runway	Angel Falls	Change of Heart	Eldest	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Channel	Project Runway	Angel Falls	Change of Heart	Eldest	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island
AKN	Kapamilya Channel	Project Runway	Angel Falls	Change of Heart	Eldest	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island
Cartoon Network	Kapamilya Channel	Project Runway	Angel Falls	Change of Heart	Eldest	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island
Channel 5	Kapamilya Channel	Project Runway	Angel Falls	Change of Heart	Eldest	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island
Channel 7	Kapamilya Channel	Project Runway	Angel Falls	Change of Heart	Eldest	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island
Channel 9	Kapamilya Channel	Project Runway	Angel Falls	Change of Heart	Eldest	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island
Channel 11	Kapamilya Channel	Project Runway	Angel Falls	Change of Heart	Eldest	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island
Channel 13	Kapamilya Channel	Project Runway	Angel Falls	Change of Heart	Eldest	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island
Channel 15	Kapamilya Channel	Project Runway	Angel Falls	Change of Heart	Eldest	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island
Channel 17	Kapamilya Channel	Project Runway	Angel Falls	Change of Heart	Eldest	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island
Channel 19	Kapamilya Channel	Project Runway	Angel Falls	Change of Heart	Eldest	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island
Channel 21	Kapamilya Channel	Project Runway	Angel Falls	Change of Heart	Eldest	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island
Channel 23	Kapamilya Channel	Project Runway	Angel Falls	Change of Heart	Eldest	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island	Survivor: The Island

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.







# Ship catches fire off Cebu City; no one hurt

By Jhunnex Napalacan  
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A VESSEL CARRYING PASSENGERS and cargo yesterday caught fire 128 km off this city, but no one was reported hurt.

Superferry 12, of the Abotiz Transport Services, was on its way to Cebu from Manila when fire struck its stateroom, a first-class accommodation on Deck 4, at 11.50 a.m., reports reaching the Coast Guard said.

John Rojo, the shipping firm's assistant vice president for public relations, said the management was still determining the cause of the fire.

Rojo said the fire was put out at 2.47 p.m. or almost three hours after it started. He said Coast guard personnel who inspected the vessel allowed the ship to continue its trip at past 3 p.m. Superferry 12 was supposed to arrive

at the Cebu port at 8 p.m.

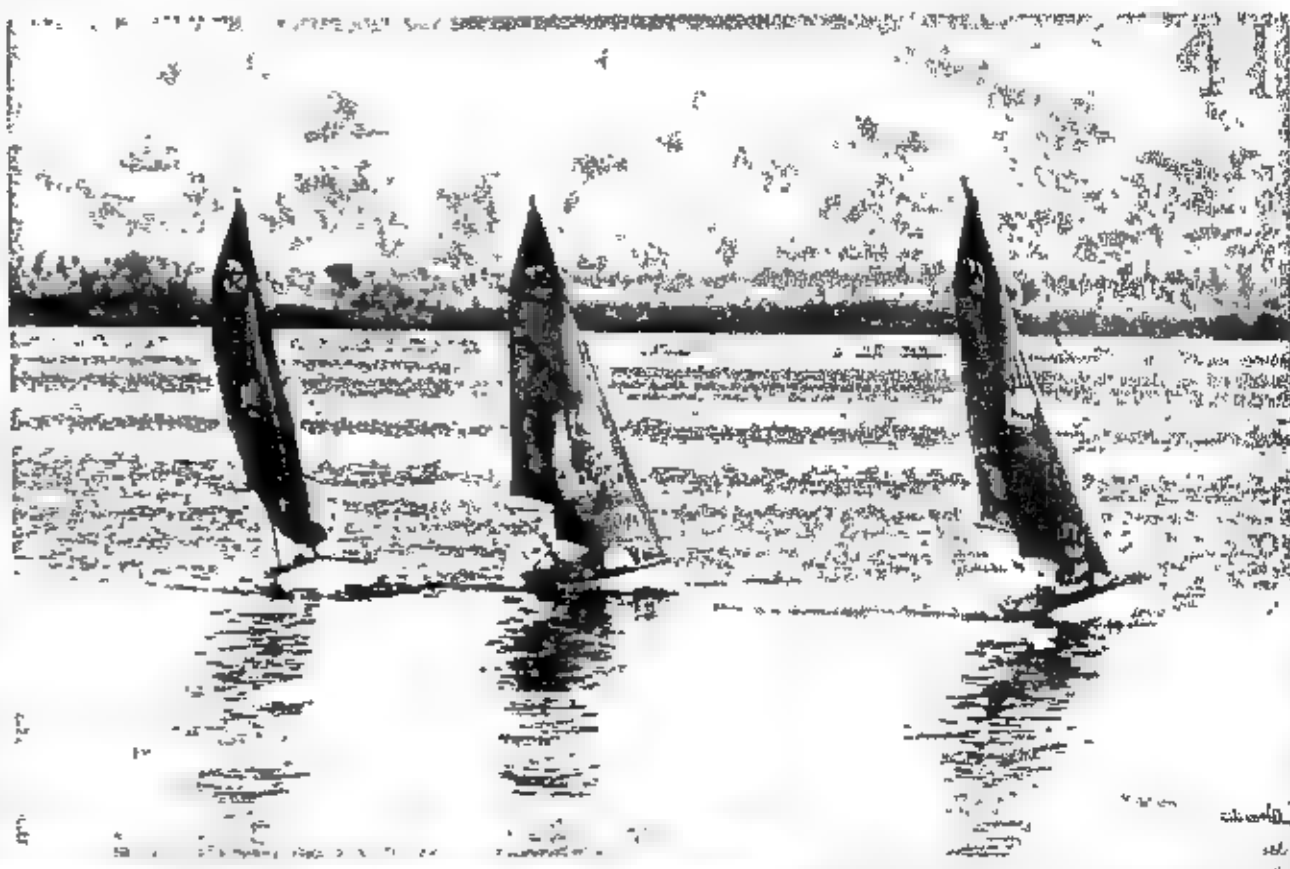
The ship was anchored at the vicinity of Bulalagan point, 60 nautical miles from the port until it was cleared to continue sailing.

Petty Officer 1st Class Pablo Gonzales, of the Hagnaya, San Remigio Coast Guard substation, said the ship's officers and crew led by their captain, Jose Yap, were the ones who put out the fire because Coast Guard personnel were not allowed at first to board the vessel.

Rojo said the engines were not damaged, but ship officials were assessing if they would allow Superferry 12 to proceed to its next stop, Cagayan de Oro City.

Manolito Malig-on, Cebu Coast guard station commander, said the ship's captain had been required to submit a marine protest so that an investigation could immediately begin.

Rojo said the Superferry management would cooperate in the probe.



**BOAT RACE** MELVYN CALDERON/CONTRIBUTOR  
Sailboats join a regatta during the "Balayong Festival" in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

## ROUNDUP

### Blast rocks bus terminal

COTABATO CITY—A powerful explosion rocked a bus terminal on Don Rufino Aionzo Street here Wednesday. No one was injured, police said. Senior Supt. Abubakar Mangelen, city police chief, said the explosion left a 17-by-30 cm crater on a Weena air-conditioned bus. The type of explosive used was unknown, said Mangelen, but the bombing could be the work of an extortion gang. Weena management admitted that the company had been receiving calls from extortionists.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

### 3 soldiers tagged in bus rob

COTABATO CITY—Three soldiers were identified as behind last week's bus robbery in Pikit, North Cotabato where a policeman died, a military spokesperson said. Lt. Col. Franklin del Prado, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said the suspects have already been detained. He said the soldiers faced administrative and criminal charges in connection with the robbery and the death of PO1 Rey Anselar. One of the robbers shot Anselar when the policeman tried to wrestle a gun from his companion. Passengers of the Cotabato City-bound Weena bus have identified the suspects, according to the police. "We should not condemn the entire organization as rotten because of one or two misguided ones. What is important is that the command does not tolerate misdeeds," Del Prado said.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

### Free legal aid launched

COTABATO CITY—The Rotary Club of Cotabato City-South will sponsor a free legal aid program for poor litigants of Central Mindanao on Saturday. Club president Virgilio Villa said the outreach program was a joint project of the group and the integrated Bar of the Philippines, Cotabato City chapter. Regional Trial Court Judge Bansawan Ibrahim, the club's district assistant governor, said the program involved legal counseling and documentation of new cases involving poor clients. "It's a pity to know that many people could not afford to seek justice in court because of poverty," Samuel Fontanilla, former IBP chapter president, said.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

### 4 prisoners escape

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Four prisoners escaped from the town jail of Baguio, Cagayan on Monday. Senior Supt. James Andres Melad, Cagayan police director, said Jonathan Pasion, Emilio Soriano, Alejandro Saldivar and Erwin Jimenez (identified in other reports as Oying Tumanes) used a broken saw to cut the iron grills of their cell's window at 11.30 p.m. The prisoners are facing robbery in band, attempted homicide, estate and rape charges.

Estanislao Calder and Villarfor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

### Theft saddles Phivolcs

LEGAZPI CITY—A six-member team from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the loss of state-of-the-art equipment installed around Mount Mayon had hampered its monitoring work. Elmer Gabinete, a member of the team, said the team would not only study Mayon's deformed edifice and its crater glow but also its current condition. Gabinete begged for the return of the equipment, saying "It will not be useful to anybody but to everybody who would be affected by Mayon's eruption." The devices, donated by the Japanese government, were reported stolen two years after they were placed in strategic places around the volcano.

Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

### 'No GMA replacement'

SORSOGON CITY—The National Democratic Front-New People's Army can't identify any one from the opposition as a replacement for President Macapagal-Arroyo should she be removed from office or resign. This surfaced in an interview over radio station dzAS with Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, who said a good number of people could take the place of Ms. Arroyo but failed to identify them. Pressed for a categorical answer as to who the NDF-NPA favors among the opposition leaders to replace Ms. Arroyo, Rosal said a transition government to be run by a group of persons must take over once the President steps down while an election is being worked out.

Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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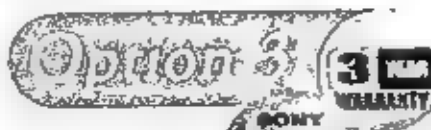
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# PNP: We didn't arrest Risa, we got her out of harm's way

From page A1  
 Police official "clarified" yesterday. She was not even "invited" by the police for questioning.

The way Metro Manila police chief Vidal Querol put it, the police simply grabbed Baraquel during a rally by hundreds of women at the Mabuhay Rotonda in Quezon City on Wednesday to protect the Akbayan representative from harm. (See related story on Page A2.)

## Out of harm's way

"Who says she was arrested? She was taken out of the rally site because of an impending dispersal," PNP Director Vidal Querol told reporters. "She was taken out of danger."

And what about the act of forcing Baraquel into a waiting vehicle? Querol termed it "police assistance," in language reminiscent of Newspeak in George Orwell's "1984" novel about a totalitarian society ruled by "Big Brother."

Querol said police decided to take Baraquel away because riot cops were about to disperse the demonstrators since they had no permit. The demonstrators were commemorating International Women's Day.

"She could get hurt. She might be wounded and get bloodied. All the more the police would be blamed," he said.

Police took Baraquel and about a dozen other protesters, including Joshua Mata, secretary general of the Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL), to Camp Karingal in Quezon City. All but Mata were subsequently released.

Baraquel was freed after a group of lawyers and lawmakers pointed out to the police that she was immune from suit as a member of Congress.

Ponce said at the time that she was not under arrest but had been merely "invited," a term which Baraquel, whose husband Francisco was himself a PNP superintendent at the time of his death last year, vehemently protested.

## Safe house

"This arrest is veritable proof that despite the lifting of the Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, the President is bent on violating civil liberties to silence those who simply wish to have the truth ex-

posed," Baraquel said shortly after she was hauled away.

Querol claimed the police knew that Baraquel and other members of Congress enjoyed immunity from arrest and took her to Camp Karingal because she would be safe there.

"When you bring a person to (another) place and then all of a sudden something foul happens, the police would again be blamed," he said.

But apart from saving Baraquel from possible harm, Querol said that by taking her away from the rally, police had also prevented her from violating the laws.

Citing the peaceful rally in Makati City on the same day, Querol said demonstrators must first obtain a permit. He said that should Baraquel attend a rally again without a permit, "we will do that over and over again to take her out of danger."

## Insult to women

Police have charged Mata with illegal assembly after identifying him as the leader of the rally, a charge which the male activist protested as an insult to the women.

"It is insulting to the women that only I should be charged with leading the march when I'm not even a woman," Mata said in an interview yesterday.

"It's impossible for a man to lead a women's rally. I was there only to support the women."

An inquest prosecutor recommended bail of P2,000 for Mata, who was scheduled to be released yesterday after his lawyers posted the bond. He said he suspected authorities delayed his inquest so he would be forced to spend a night in jail.

Mata said there was no justification for the "warrantless" arrests, since the demonstrators had not violated any laws.

He said the APL had applied for a permit from Manila City Hall on March 6. Since the city government did not act on the application, it was deemed approved under BP 880, he said.

The labor leader said he would consult with his lawyers to determine the "highest possible" charge he could lodge against the police for beating him hard with their truncheons during the dispersal of the rally. With a report from DJ Yap

## Defensor apologizes to Baraquel

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENTIAL CHIEF OF STAFF MICHAEL Defensor said yesterday he had apologized to Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel for her "arrest" last Wednesday as police broke up an International Women's Day rally, and announced that the National Security Council would convene next week to review the government's controversial calibrated preemptive response policy (CPR).

Defensor told reporters that he checked with police officials about the incident and

was told that Baraquel was not arrested but merely taken "out of harm's way" during the dispersal of the rally because she was a member of Congress. (Story on Page A1)

He said he considered Baraquel a friend and had personally apologized to her for what happened.

## To qualify CPR

"The NSC will be discussing all of these ... we will qualify the CPR," he added.

One of the things that would be discussed was the possibility of allowing protesters to con-

tinue with their rallies even after the deadlines stated in their permits had expired as long as the demonstrators did not impede traffic.

"For instance, if a rally blocks a street or impedes the flow of traffic, they may be moved back but they will not be dispersed so their rally can go on," Defensor said in Filipino.

Defensor said he was for freedom of assembly and freedom of speech as long as traffic was not impeded.

"The policy has to be qualified to avoid these situations," he said. Christine O. Avendaño

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January 2, 2006

**PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR**  
 No. 05, s-2006

**TO :** All LGUs, Legislators, Private Entities and All Others Concerned

**SUBJECT :** Amendment of PhilHealth Circulars 21 and 23, s-2005 for the Extension of the Validity of the Special LGU Premium Counterpart Contribution and Oplan 2.5 Million Renewal

In conformance with PhilHealth Board Resolution No. 852, s-2005 extending the renewal of 2.5 Million indigent families and to ensure sustainability of membership of indigent families enrolled under the Sponsored Program through the Enhanced PCSO Greater Medicare Access Program, PhilHealth Circular Nos. 21 and 23, s-2005 are hereby amended.

The Oplan 2.5 Million Renewal and the Special LGU Premium Counterpart Contribution shall be valid during the transition year 2005-2006 for the membership renewal of indigent families enrolled under the Sponsored Program through the Enhanced PCSO Greater Medicare Access Program. Hence, the LGUs have until June 2006 to avail of these schemes.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

(Sgd.) LORNA D. FAJARDO, CESO III  
 Officer-in-charge  
 Office of the President and Chief Executive Officer

## The PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC.

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has re-scheduled its **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TO APRIL 22, 2006, 2:00pm** at the AV Rm, ASTB, PSHS, Agham Road, Quezon City. The Agenda includes the President's Report; the Treasurer's Report; the Ratification of Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws; and the Election of Trustees

Life and regular members are asked to please respond immediately to this notice by signifying your intention to attend or by accomplishing a proxy form and send it to the Foundation Office at above address.

Notices by mail have also been sent to all life and regular members at their last known addresses. Thus, should we not receive any response, not later than 5 days before the meeting, we shall presume that you have passed away, moved to an address unknown to us, or are no longer interested in your membership, any one of which reason will terminate your membership in the Foundation

You can call 924-0655 for further information.

Sgd. JOSE M. RICAFFRENTE, Corporate Secretary

## 'Fantastic' role ...

From page A1  
 try's pioneering career women, died on March 7 surrounded by her children and grandchildren. She was 89. She was the first female Cabinet secretary and the first Filipino clinical psychologist.

Despite being diagnosed with chronic leukemia, Aldaba-Lim continued to "move around holding meetings and consultations" on her endeavors, the latest of which was the 50-unit Gawad Kalinga Aldaba Hills housing village in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

Lazaro said her mother spent her 89th birthday on Jan. 6 in San Jose del Monte, distributing pairs of goodies to the beneficiaries of her housing project.

It would be one of her mother's better days in the last six months which had been spent going in and out of the hospital, Lazaro said.

"She had good times and she had her bad times, but she remained active," Lazaro said.

Aldaba-Lim, the former assistant secretary general of the United Nations Children's Fund's International Year of the Child, fell into a coma two months ago, and was placed on a life support system at a hospital, her daughter said.

## Go in dignity

Last month, Lazaro said the family decided to bring their mother home.

"We knew she was fading. We wanted her to go in peace as naturally as possible. We wanted her to go in dignity," Lazaro said.

"Given the choice, she would have gone on March 1," Lazaro said.

According to her, March 1 was the death anniversary of their father, Luis Lim Sr., who passed away in 1962, leaving behind Aldaba-Lim, then a teacher, with six young children.

## Fantastic role model

"She was a fantastic role model. She had a career but she was also active at home, like she even had time to sew our school uniforms," Lazaro said.

Aldaba-Lim was also a former secretary of social welfare and president of the Girl Scouts of the

Philippines. She also founded the Museo Pambata in Manila.

Aside from Lazaro and her husband, Aldaba-Lim left behind children Nina Yuson, Bertie and Carla, Louie and Frieda, Winnie and Patty Yusah, and Ricky and Regina, and 17 grandchildren.

Aldaba-Lim was regarded as a trailblazer, especially in the fields of psychology and social work.

After getting her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, Aldaba-Lim returned to the Philippines and became the first Filipino woman clinical psychologist in 1948. That same year, she set up the Institute of Human Relations at Philippine Women's University, where she had received her bachelor's degree in secondary education. She got her MA in clinical psychology from the University of the Philippines.

## First woman Cabinet secretary

Aldaba-Lim was also the first woman Cabinet member, serving as social services and development secretary from 1971 to 1977.

She was the first woman to become special ambassador to the United Nations, with the rank of assistant secretary general during the International Year of the Child in 1979.

She travelled to more than 60 countries in two years, meeting with world leaders and laying the foundation for the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child. For this, she received the UN Peace Medal Award from then Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.



## Museo Pambata

Aldaba-Lim cofounded in 1994 the Museo Pambata, the first children's museum in the Philippines, a venue for alternative learning for children, especially those without access to formal education.

She was also a former chair of the Council for the Welfare of Children, and a former member of Sagip Kabataan and Catholic Charity (Caritas).

In 2001, at the age of 84, she became founding chair of the Women of Maiolos Foundation, which aims to keep the memory and principles of the 21 Women of Maiolos alive.

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# DOJ junks P151-M tax evasion case vs Lee

From page A1

cash-strapped Arroyo administration from collecting P151 million in taxes.

## Strange

Agbepa said it was strange that the justice department didn't find the officials of Columbia liable.

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"There was apparently an assignment of the shares and changing of the officers. But we're charging the corporation, not just its officers," she said.

In fact the company had not been sold to anybody.

"There was just a transfer of shares of stock to Arnold Jimenez, Luis Gatchalian, Harry Tan, Marry Joy Ang and Jocelyn Santos," the BIR lawyer said.

She said the tax liability was not extinguished by the mere assignment of shares.

The RATE task force deemed it proper to contest the DOJ resolution on Columbia Sports through a motion for reconsideration (MR) but the justice department appeared to be dragging its feet.

"As of last week, I asked the fiscal on the status of the MR. He said he was still in the process of resolving it," Agbepa said.

Agbepa said all DOJ resolutions passed through the office of the (justice) secretary before they could be promulgated.

Lee was among the suspected smugglers named at a recent Senate hearing along with Vicky Toh and Lucio Lao Co, who were purportedly close to First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

Police arrested Lee on Sunday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon his return from Hong Kong for allegedly ordering the diversion of three container vans of plastic resin from a customs bonded warehouse to a company in Valenzuela City.

He was released at 6 p.m. on Wednesday after posting bail set by a Manila Regional Trial Court at P360,000. Prosecutors recommended earlier in the day that Lee and his cohorts be slapped with three counts of smuggling in connection with the diversion of the container vans.

## Do homework

Told that the government lost millions with the dismissal of the case, Gonzalez replied: "They (BIR) should have done their homework before filing the case."

He complained that the BIR had been found to have been filing "haphazard cases" under its RATE program, resulting in the dismissal of many of them.

The BIR also filed tax evasion cases in April 2005 against three firms believed to be fronting for Lee—Nimika Industrial Corp., Mitsuko Philippines Corp. and Pine River International Corp. Lee is listed as treasurer of Nimika.

"They're all (Lee's) dummy corporations," said Stimson Cures, one of the five revenue officers at the BIR National Investigation Division who built up the tax evasion case.

The case against Columbia Sports stemmed from its nonfiling of tax returns for 2002 and 2003 although it imported P599 million worth of goods in 2002 and P2.8 billion in 2003.

Columbia is engaged in manufacturing, importing, exporting, buying and selling gloves, mittens, hats, garments, textiles, bags and other related goods.

The BIR listed as Columbia's corporate officers Vincent Lam (president), Luis Ng Lim (executive vice president and general manager) and Lihan Cua (treasurer).

## Parayno

Guillermo Parayno Jr., who was the BIR commissioner when the case was filed against Columbia Sports, claimed in a charge sheet addressed to Gonzalez that the company earned income "as per the data of the Bureau of Import Services."

"The goods imported by Columbia for years 2002 and 2003, whether further processed or reexported or sold locally in their original form, should have, in the normal course of

business, generated income for the corporation," Parayno said.

Despite the income it presumably earned, Columbia, through its "responsible corporate officers," did not declare any income when it failed to file income tax returns for 2002 and 2003.

"Needless to state, under the tax code, every corporation is required to file the necessary VAT (value-added tax), income and withholding tax returns of which herein respondents failed to do," Parayno said.

The tax liability of Columbia amounted to P26,503,450 in 2003, and P125,258,676 in 2003, according to the BIR.

## Deeds of assignments

In the four-page decision, prosecutor Dayog noted that respondents had contended that the nonpayment of tax returns "cannot be imputed to them as they were not the stockholders, directors or officers of Columbia during that period of time."

He said the respondents ceased to be corporate officers on June 26, 2001, when they transferred all their interests to Jimenez, Gatchalian, Tan, Ong and Santos "by virtue of deeds of assignments."

The BIR argued that the deeds of assignments "were of doubtful validity as they did not specify the consideration for the transfers and the specific addresses of the transferees."

"There is no showing that respondents actually ceased to be responsible officers of Columbia even after the transfer of their interests to the new stockholders," it said.

In dismissing the case, the justice department said "we cannot sustain the contention of complainant ... There is no evidence to support suspicion that the deeds of assignment were simulated."

Both Gonzalez and Dayog appeared surprised when told that the respondents could be serving as Lee's dummies.

"They should charge him (Lee) for violating the anti-dummy law. You have to back up your complaint with evidence," Gonzalez said.

## Right set of respondents

He said the BIR's failure to charge the right set of respondents allegedly fronting for a firm owned by Lee resulted in the dismissal of the tax evasion case against Columbia.

"Those who incurred the supposed liabilities were the current officials, but the BIR charged the previous officials," Gonzalez said.

Dayog told the INQUIRER yesterday that the previous stockholders signed a deed of assignment transferring stocks to another set of owners. "On that basis, I dismissed the complaint," he said.

"The respondents were initially stockholders of Columbia, but during taxable year 2002 and 2003, a new set of officers came in. So they are not the proper respondents in the case. That's the basis for my dismissal," Dayog said.

He said it was obvious that the changes in the set of officials running Columbia was not reflected in the records of the Securities and Exchange Commission, on which the BIR based its complaint.

## Motion for reconsideration

But the BIR filed a motion for reconsideration on the matter, maintaining that it was really after the firm, not the set of officials. The issue remains pending in the office of Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuñiga.

However, Gonzalez said this was not legally feasible.

"That is the law. You do not send to jail the corporation. You send to jail the respondents," Gonzalez said.

Dayog said the BIR could refile the case against the right set of officials.

# Kin of stampede victims...

From page A1

"We were not satisfied with the [results of the] investigation; we felt dismayed."

The Department of Justice has set the start of the preliminary investigation on March 20.

But according to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, the department was still studying the possibility of including Lopez in the list of those to be held liable for the stampede that marked what was to have been the first anniversary celebration of the ABS-CBN game show "Wowowee."

The stampede killed 71 people and injured hundreds of others.

Asked by reporters whether Lopez would be included in the criminal complaint, Gonzalez said that in issues involving "reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple injuries," the liability could reach up to the "owner."

He likened the issue to a public vehicle whose owner would be partly answerable in case of an accident, and said there was a wealth of jurisprudence citing the liability of bus owners in "motor vehicle accidents."

Gonzalez also said the justice department was studying the "hierarchy of responsibility." He noted that Lopez's earlier admission of responsibility would "play a factor" in his department's decision.

ABS-CBN's Malohi Manalastas told GMA 7 last night that the network was prepared to face any investigation.

## 'Some changes'

On Wednesday the NBI recommended the filing of criminal charges against 17 persons, including ABS-CBN executive vice president Charo Santos-Concio and "Wowowee" host Wilfredo "Willie" Revillame.

It also recommended the filing of administrative charges against Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio in the Department of Interior and Local Government.

The NBI did not find the Pasig police and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority liable for the stampede.

Asked what he thought of the NBI report, Gonzalez said he was "satisfied" with it but wanted to introduce "some changes."

He said he could either expand or "overturn" the recommendations.

"Right now we are not including him (Lopez), but we are still reviewing the case," Gonzalez said, adding that among the other matters being studied was Eusebio's "culpability."

He pointed out that under an administrative complaint, Eusebio could be reprimanded or suspended, but not dismissed.

"The matter of the liability of public officials is whether the [criminal act] committed merits a degree of punishment that will mean disqualification from holding public office ... or whether it involves moral turpitude, which can be penalized by suspension," Gonzalez said.

## 'Mere employees'

He added that the justice department was reviewing the "arrangements" between the "Wowowee" organizers and the

Pasig government to determine the extent of Eusebio's liability.

The VACC's Jimenez said Lopez should be included in the charge sheet because he had also benefited from "Wowowee" as the owner of the network.

"When you earn [money] from something and then something bad happens, there must be a corresponding liability to assume," Jimenez told the INQUIRER.

He said Concio, Revillame et al. were "mere employees" doing their jobs.

"It is like indicting only the driver of a car and forgetting the liability of the owner," he added.

Jimenez said former Pasig police chief Medina should have also been included in the NBI list because there was negligence on his part.

"There was already imminent and inevitable danger at that time, but the Pasig policemen's lack of foresight resulted in the tragedy. So he (Medina) should be made answerable for such negligence," Jimenez said.

Jimenez also warned the victims of the stampede to be wary of supposed social workers asking victims to sign bank waivers.

"I advise them to seek help from knowledgeable people before they sign anything," he said.

## Broken bones

Survivor Catubig, who suffered broken bones in the stampede, said Lopez should be indicted "because he was aware of the operations of 'Wowowee'."

"In the first place, the preparation for the show's anniversary would not have pushed through if he did not allow it," Catubig said.

Apart from Lopez, Catubig said, the "Wowowee" staff member who announced that they would begin letting people inside the stadium should also be held liable.

He announced on a megaphone that people would be let in on a first-come-first-served basis. It was this announcement that caused the crowd to start jostling for position in order to be among the first 300 inside," Catubig said.

He said he could not recall the man's name but would recognize his face.

Catubig recalled staying out the stadium for 24 hours, sustained by the thought that he would be among the first people inside once the gates were opened.

He said he was very near the gate when it gave way and an estimated crowd of 15,000 tried to push its way through.

## Chance to answer

In Pasig, Mayor Eusebio said he welcomed the recommending of administrative charges against him.

"This is a chance for me to be able to answer the allegations against me. I have already asked my lawyer to explain my side," he told the INQUIRER.

He added: "I believe in our justice system. I know the Department of Justice will be fair and just."

Eusebio declined further comment, saying he would "answer the allegations in the proper forum." With reports from Tina G. Santos and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.



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15. B14 L16 Alifan Village, Alapan 1-B, Imus	RH	46	38	273,680.00	TCT for consolidation/occupied
16. B9 L25 Alifan Village, Alapan 1-B, Imus	RH	40	38	289,080.00	TCT for consolidation/occupied
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### Schedule of Activities

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	March 13 to 20, 2006
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	March 24, 2006 at 2:00 pm
Issuance of Bid Documents to Eligible Suppliers	March 28, 2006
Pre-Bidding Conference	March 30, 2006 at 2:00 pm
Deadline for Submission of Questions	March 31, 2006 at 5:00 pm
Response to Submitted Questions	April 4, 2006 at 5:00 pm
Submission and Opening of Technical and Financial Proposals at 2:00 pm of date specified	For Lot A on April 12, 2006 For Lot B on April 18, 2006
Issuance of Notice of Award	For Lot A on April 19, 2006 For Lot B on April 28, 2006

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(PDE-Archives No. 4, 17, 2006)



FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2006

## METROBRIEFS

## Shoe in other foot

SIX policemen assigned at the Caloocan City Warrant and Subpoena Section are now facing arrest after a rice trader they apprehended earlier for alleged estafa accused them of extortion. Chief Insp. Rio Gatocillo head of the Northern Police District investigation unit said extortion charges have been filed against suspects SPO3 Alfredo Capuyan, POC Jesus Agrava, P01 Marlon Blando, SPO3 Cecile de Leon, P03 Alexander Ibe and SPO1 Hermenildo Sandel in the City Prosecutor's Office yesterday following a complaint by Myrna Casapaw of Dagat-dagatan, Caloocan City. The rice trader alleged that the policemen on two separate occasions (Dec. 22 2005 and March 2, 2006) arrested her by virtue of a search warrant issued by a Cavite City judge.

Nancy C. Carvajal

## Mandaluyong's gift to women

THE CITY government of Mandaluyong will host a two-day affair for its women residents as part of women's month. The affair, dubbed "Gandang Nanay Ko," is sponsored by the city government and the Green Ladies Movement headed by Queenie Gonzales, wife of Mayor Neptali Gonzales II, together with Che-Cha Pablo-Santos and Baby Pillas. Among the free services are breast examinations, pap smears, bone scans, eye check-ups, ECG, reflexology, dental care, hair cuts and facials. A job fair aimed at facilitating placements for women will also be held on March 18 at the city gymnasium.

## Water cutoff in Manila

SOME areas of Manila will have no water for 20 hours starting at 11 p.m., Saturday, until 7 p.m., Sunday, due to the replacement of the existing 500mm gate valve along Abad Santos corner Quirica St. in Sta. Cruz. The areas that will have no water for 20 hours include the following: the area bounded by Dagupan Ext., Estero de Maypajo, Rizal Avenue, Antipolo, Estero de San Lazaro, Quirica and Estero de la Reyna, bounded by Juan Luna, Estero de Maypajo, Dagupan Ext., and Tayabas St. and bounded by Estero de Kabuluhan, Estero de la Reyna Recto, Estero de Magdalena, Quirica and Dagupan Ext. Manila. Areas that will have low pressures to no water, on the other hand, include the area bounded by Moriones, Nolasco, Estero de la Reyna, Ilaya, C.M. Recto, Estero de Magdalena and Estero de San Lazaro, Manila. The repair work is part of Maynirad's program to improve its water service.

## 3 cops in 'wrong car' case test positive

By Luigi A. del Puerto

THREE OF THE SEVEN policemen who figured in the wounding of a business executive in Pasig City in a case of mistaken identity have tested positive for powder burns, the police said.

A report from the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory said the right hands of P02 Renato Salinas and P01 Jeffrey Abiad tested positive for gunpowder nitrates. The left hand of P02 Mario Aresta was also positive for gunpowder residue, the report added.

Four other officers—SPO2 Jaime de Guzman, P02 Marcelino Dacoylo, P02 Arthur Olosan, and P02 Gary Delgado tested negative for gunpowder residue, according to the report.

The policemen were sacked, along with four other officers—SPO2 Jaime de Guzman, P02 Marcelino Dacoylo, P02 Arthur Olosan, who were on board mobile

No. 99, and P02 Gary Delgado

But their woes did not appear to stop there. The policemen were not even supposed to be in the area where a Toyota Vios driven by a pharmaceutical firm executive was shot at by law enforcers by mistake, according to officials from the Traffic Management Group (TMG).

"The policemen heard the flash alarm from headquarters and responded on their own," said Sr. Supt. Elmer Soria, chief of the National Capital Region-TMG, referring to the officers on board Police Mobile 13.

The police were still investigating if there were orders for them to leave the TMG headquarters in Camp Crame in response to the alarm.

Aresta and Salinas are from the TMG-Special Operations Group while Abiad is from the office of the TMG director, Chief Supt. Augusto Angcanan.

Angcanan himself was furious at the officers who had fired at the wrong car. "There should have been a strict observance of the chain of command. It seemed that these people heard there was trouble through a

flash alarm and rushed to the area even without instructions from their immediate officer," Angcanan told ANC TV.

The responding policemen had opened fire at a silver Toyota Vios on E. Rodriguez corner Lanuza Streets in Barangay Ugong, Pasig City. On board the car was business executive Randolph Clarito, 46. He was wounded in the leg and shoulder. They were supposed to be chasing suspected car thieves on board a silver Toyota Altis.

The police said the Vios "suddenly emerged" from the street where the Altis was sighted. When its driver allegedly failed to heed the police's call to stop, the cops peppered it with bullets.

There was a lack of communication between men from the three mobile cars that responded to the alarm, according to Soria. The men from Mobile 10 had not immediately informed their colleagues in the two other police cars, through the radio, that the Altis had been found.

Quoting Angcanan, Soria said the police "should not have fired" at the Toyota Vios. "You don't need a po-

lice operational procedure to know that what they did was wrong," Angcanan told reporters. "That was very basic—there was no threat to their lives but they fired at the Vios."

Clarito, an executive vice president of a pharmaceutical company, is preparing to file charges against the TMG operatives who opened fire at his car and had wounded him in the process. He was on his way to his Pasig home when the incident occurred, he said. "Saying sorry is a good initial step. Firing them is good and appropriate. But there is the issue of accountability," Clarito told reporters.

Eastern Police District director Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino told the INQUIRER he had already formed a task force headed by his deputy director to investigate the incident.

With Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

## Grenade shell slows traffic in Pasay, Makati

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TRAFFIC WAS SNARLED FOR hours in the cities of Pasay and Makati yesterday morning when what looked like a fragmentation grenade was found in an alley on F.B. Harrison Street.

But the grenade turned out to be just a shell of the original.

"It only contained sand," Southern Police District Chief Wilfredo Garcia told the INQUIRER.

The object was discovered by street sweepers at 8:45 a.m. at the corner of Gil Puyar Avenue (formerly Buendia) and F.B. Harrison Street.

The area was cordoned off by Pasay's Special Weapons and Tactics-Explosives Ordnance Division (SWAT-EOD) as the team inspected the object.

The incident caused traffic jams along several streets of Pasay and Makati.

SPO3 Eduardo Juarbal said the incident could be related to a feud between two groups of tenants of a condominium on F.B. Harrison Street.

The groups were apparently fighting over ownership of certain units at the condominium, and the grenade could have been used as a scare tactic, police said.

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# Eusebio stripped of authority over Pasig police

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PASIG CITY MAYOR VICENTE "ENTENG" EUSEBIO yesterday lost operational control over the local police as a result of his order to demolish a "shabu supermarket" in his city.

An en banc resolution of the National Police Commission (Napolcom) withdrew Eusebio's deputation as a Napolcom representative.

The commission ruled that the mayor committed "abuse of authority" when he ordered the dismantling of an alleged shabu complex in Sitio Mapayapa, Barangay Sto. Tomas, Pasig City.

Eusebio personally supervised demolition crews on Feb. 15 in destroying 53 shanties standing on a 600-sq.-m compound in Sitio Mapayapa, suspected of being a one-stop-shop for users of illegal drugs.

Police operations in the area earlier led to the arrest of more than 300 persons caught allegedly using drugs. "The Napolcom is fully convinced that the immediate destruction of the shanties is unwarranted and illegal, as the shabu den will be used as evidence in prosecuting the apprehended suspected drug users and maintainers," said Napolcom vice chair Imelda Rocas.

## No interference

Napolcom chair Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said the commission's action was meant to ensure that the investigation could proceed without interference from local officials.

"This is in order to make the investigation aboveboard and free of suspicions of being tainted by the participation of people who might be the subject of investigation," he told the media in a briefing yesterday.

With Eusebio stripped of his authority over the city's police force, the Pasig police force is now directly under PNP chief Director General Arturo Lomibao, said Puno. Under the law, mayors can be named Napolcom deputies and supervise the local police.

The commission found Eusebio's demolition order a violation of Presidential Decree No. 1829 which penalizes "altering, destroying, suppressing, or concealing" any piece of evidence that may affect its "legibility, availability or admissibility... in any investigation or official proceedings in criminal cases."

In spite of the Napolcom decision, Eusebio told the INQUIRER he would still support the local police. "I will buy them new patrol cars. I will order the repair of their offices. We will help them with everything they need," Eusebio said.

The city government had claimed the demolition of the shabu supermarket was in response to the clamor of the residents in the neighborhood. But the Napolcom decision said the "immediate destruction of the shanties is unwarranted and illegal."

Eusebio said losing supervision over the police would enable him to concentrate on other things, adding that he had a lot of work to do.

## Review

Meanwhile, in an effort to restore public trust in the police force, the Napolcom set up a team to review existing rules of engagement in view of recent operations that generated controversy.

Puno announced yesterday that the commission created a five-man review committee to see if current police operational procedure needed amendment or improvement. He added that they wanted to reassure the public that the PNP was there to serve the people.

Napolcom Commissioner Miguel Coronel will head the review committee that also includes the PNP's director for investigation and detective management, director for Operations and director for legal services; and Napolcom's legal services director.

Puno said one of the priority issues would be police "invitations" and the setting up of checkpoints.

The other day, police "invited for questioning" Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel despite the lifting of Presidential Proclamation 1017 by President Macapagal-Arroyo. The police bodily carried Baraquel, who was participating in an assembly in Quezon City commemorating International Women's Day. She was later released by virtue of parliamentary immunity.

As for the checkpoints, considered as routine anti-crime operation, Puno said guidelines would be reviewed. He said people's confidence in the checkpoints had to be restored.

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## Red Bull gets going vs San Mig

WINNING A CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE PREVIOUS conference builds enormous pressure on Red Bull to clinch another.

Thus the Bulls will understandably dread the spotlight today when they take on San Miguel Beermen the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

"It's a natural thing for people to notice us after winning a championship," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, fresh from steering the Bulls to the 2006 Fiesta Conference title over the Purefoods Chunkee Giants.

"All eyes will certainly be on us." While focus will be on how the Bulls can maintain their championship fire, the team's Ateneo connection—sealed with the acquisition of Rich Alvarez from Alaska—provides an added attraction in the 7:35 p.m. match.

STANDINGS	W	L
Coca-Cola	1	0
Alaska	1	0
Purefoods	1	0
Ginebra	1	0
Air21	0	1
San Miguel	0	1
Sta. Lucia	0	1
Talk N Text	0	1
Red Bull	x	x

### GAMES TODAY

(Araneta Coliseum)

4:40 p.m.—Alaska

vs Coca-Cola

7:35 p.m.—San

Miguel vs Red Bull

Alvarez joins Enrico Villanueva, Paolo Bugia and Larry Fonacier, the core of the Blue Eagles' 2002 UAAP championship squad, together with LA Tenorio and Wesley Gonzales.

Playing with limited minutes for Alaska, Alvarez could again spread his wings under the Bulls' system.

"I'm used to playing with these guys (Ateneo teammates) and the good thing about it is we always watch

each other's back," said Alvarez, the league's 2005 rookie of the year.

Meanwhile, the Beermen are expected to atone for their conference-opening debacle against the Aces. Brandon Cablay had a forgettable debut for San Miguel, scoring only three points in 28 minutes.

Cablay was shipped by the Aces in exchange for Nic Belasco, who got back at his former team with a game-high 30 points in 33 minutes.

"He will not score every night but he'll be an important factor for us," said Alaska coach Tim Cone. "He's thrilled at this point and the triangle is there to explore his game."

Cone and the Aces tangle with the Coca-Cola Tigers earlier at 4:40 p.m.

"Coke is very hungry and the only way to go for them is up," said Cone.

"The rivalry of the trade will make it interesting."

The Aces swapped John Argo and Ali Peek for Jeffrey Canaso and Reynel Hugnatan more than a year ago.

Argo and Peek led Coca-Cola to victory over Air21 on opening day.

"We lost to them (Aces) by a wide margin during our tune-up game," said Coca-Cola coach Binky Pavis.

"It will ease off the pressure if we can return the favor," June Navarro



GINEBRA'S Rommel Adducul (left) disputes the rebound with Talk 'N Text's Asi Taulava in Wednesday's game won by the Gin Kings, 98-81.

## 2 games up as NBC caging begins today

### GAMES TODAY

(Tagaytay Sports Center)

1 p.m.—Bacchus/Harbour Centre

vs Spring-Paranaque

3 p.m.—Opening Ceremony

3:30 p.m.—Tagaytay vs Pangasinan

TAGAYTAY CITY—THE NATIONAL Basketball Conference (NBC) opens its third season today with a doubleheader at the Tagaytay Sports Center here.

Host Batang Tagaytay of NBC executive vice president and Mayor Bamol Tolentino goes up against Pangasinan Hundred Islands at 3:30 p.m. after the 1 p.m. opener pitting Spring Cooking Oil-Paranaque of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padiua and Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana against Bacchus/Harbour Centre Manila of Coach Lawrence Chongson and

Mikee Romero.

Cavite Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi will be guest speaker during the 3 p.m. opening ceremony of the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring, Firefly Electric, Spring Cooking Oil, Molten and Prime Channel.

"The opening rites will showcase the local talents of Tagaytay," said Mayor Tolentino. "We're expecting our home crowd to support us in our first game (in the league) since we'll be up against a strong team in Pangasinan."

Mentored by veteran Jun da Jose, Pangasinan boasts league veterans like Elven Valdez, Melvin Fontanilla, Ryan Ico, Jason Tiongson, Randy Lopez, Melvin Macalalay, Jovy Sese, Steve Maricot,

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# Bigger field, more action to mark 5th Asian F3 season

ASIAN FORMULA THREE BRACES FOR ITS fifth season this year with new cars and a bigger field competing in an expanded circuit that guarantees exciting battles for the overall drivers' championship and other titles at stake.

Instead of the usual two rounds per leg, drivers will now battle it out in three races per stop, the most significant change organizers have made since the AF3 hit the racing scene in 2002, to further test the skills of the competitors and teams.

Six legs make up this year's circuit, beginning with the opening three rounds on May 6-7 at the

Batangas Racing Circuit, where Ananda Mikola of Indonesia stamped his class last year to win the overall individual crown.

The circuit will also hold stops in China and Indonesia, with the Zhuhai International Circuit in Guangdong province hosting the next two legs on June 3-4 and July 15-16. Indonesia's Sentul International Circuit hosts the fourth and fifth legs on Aug. 19-20 and Sept. 23-24. The races wind up on Nov. 4-5 in Batangas.

In all, drivers will compete in 18 races, six more than last year's number.

At least eight speedy Dallara 304 cars, compared to just two last year, will be fielded by various teams this time, while foreign drivers from Brazil, Ireland, Japan and Indonesia will join Filipino entries led by Dado Peña and Tyson Sy.

"The level of interest in the series is extremely high," said AF3 Corp. chair Ed Peña, adding the starting grid will be bigger than last year.

"The drivers and spectators will have the benefit of an additional race. We believe AF3 represents incredible value for money and this will be further improved with an 18-race series.

"Our (AF3) aim is to ensure that there is a structured path to the top for Asian race drivers."

Mikola, along with 2004 champion Christian Jones of Australia and Irishman John O'Hara will be back, although they are not guaranteed to see action in all the races.

Organizers have also lined up more promotional activities designed to liven up the races that will be aired live on television and radio and also on [www.asianf3.net](http://www.asianf3.net) and [www.pdlnetpad.net](http://www.pdlnetpad.net).

For starters, a first-ever street drive at the Luneta Park is on the drawing board.



PEÑA: 18-race series

## Paragua asserts supremacy in La Union chess

SAN FERNANDO CITY, LA UNION—GRAND-master Mark Paragua lived up to his billing as the country's foremost player by downing International Master Ronald Dableo and ruling the 5th La Union Open chess championship here Thursday.

The highest-rated Filipino player in history with an Elo rating of 2618, Paragua secured the P80,000 champion's purse by beating Dableo in 40 moves of a Sicilian at the back end of their two-game titular series at the Diego Silang Hall of the La Union provincial capitol building.

Paragua and Dableo, who pocketed P40,000, halved the point in Game 1 after 27 moves of an English Opening.

"I really tried hard to win so my draw with the black pieces wouldn't go for naught," said Paragua in Filipino.

On his way to the finals, the 23-year-old veteran of the last two Olympiads outplayed National Master Manny Senador, Fide Master Oliver Dimakiling and last year's champion Grandmaster

Joey Antonio, who settled for fourth this time.

Only Dimakiling managed to push Paragua to the limit before bowing in a sudden-death playoff. The rest failed to make it past the two-game regulation.

"It's really hard to beat Mark when he's in peak form," said Dableo in Filipino. "At least I lost to our best player."

Paragua and Dableo, the 2003 Asian Zonal champion, are enlisted personnel of the Philippine Air Force under Maj. Jaime Viernes, Col. Oscar Rabena and group commander Col. Alejandro Camagay.

IM Richard Bitoon took third place with a 1.5-5 victory over an uninspired Antonio. Bitoon downed Antonio in 45 moves of a Caro Kann Defense in Game 1 and then forced a draw in Game 2 to earn P30,000.

Paragua is being supported by Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, Filway Marketing president/CEO Hector Tagaysay and Moldex Realty Inc. Marlon Bernardino, Contributor



IN-FORM: GM Mark Paragua proves hard to beat.

JUNE MENDOZA

## Nat'l bowlers twit PSC over monthly pay delay

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE NATIONAL BOWLERS, AMONG THE WELL-off athletes in the Philippine team, are complaining over the delay in the release of their allowances from the Philippine Sports Commission.

Led by ladies team captain Jojo Caniare, the bowlers said they received their allowance for January only last month.

"Our NSA (Philippine Bowling Congress) is consistent in submitting our attendance to the PSC, but each time they inquire with the PSC, they say there are no vouchers yet," said Caniare, part of the silver medal-winning ladies team in the recent 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

The national athletes, depending on their ranking, get monthly stipends from the PSC plus P3,000 in meal allowances.

But PSC chair William "Burch" Ramirez denied the bowlers' claim, saying the agency has not been remiss in giving stipend and meal allowances to the athletes.

"There is no reason to delay these allowances because there are no foreign trips scheduled yet," Ramirez told the INQUIRER.

He said the PSC hands out allowances directly to the athletes and that the delay had nothing to do with the Philippine Bowling Congress' problem on its liquidation of cash advances.

Annie Ruiz, head of the PSC-NSA affairs, admitted that the release of the allowances was slightly delayed. She said stipends for February are now being processed.

Ramirez said there could be a slight confusion in the processing of the athletes' allowances because their payroll ranking was affected by their performances in the SEAG.

Caniare said they also thought of seeking the help of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"They (her fellow bowlers) are asking me what is happening," said Caniare, a Class B athlete, who gets P6,000 monthly.

"Not all bowlers are well-off, some of us depend only on the money we get from the PSC."

## Laguna FA wants detail of PFF expenses

By Musong R. Castillo

LAGUNA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT Jun Pacificador is asking the Philippine Football Federation (PFF) leadership to explain in detail the huge expenses incurred by the PFF last year.

The PFF spent P4.2 million in administration expenses for last year alone, and more than P14 million since 2003, in a report presented by PFF president Johnny Romualdez during the last football congress in Iloilo last month.

A copy of the report was given to the INQUIRER

by Pacificador, who said the huge expenditure runs counter to the "spirit of volunteerism" needed to serve in a National Sports Association.

Pacificador, a math professor at De La Salle University, admitted to having called for a vote to oust Romualdez during the congress, but got nowhere when the president hid "behind the constitution of the PFF and refused to discuss issues hurled against him."

Pacificador had circulated a position paper before the start of the congress that pointed to at least four reasons why Romualdez should step down. The accusations ranged from "disregard-

ing the spirit of fair play" to being "dictatorial and negligent in running the affairs of the PFF."

Romualdez, meanwhile, said that "anyone can come to the (PFF) office and get the details (of the expenses)." He denied having promised the FA heads a detailed explanation and said the report, as far as he knew, was furnished to everyone one month before the congress.

"The administration expenses are not all spent on salaries," Romualdez added. "We also spent for communication, meeting expenses, etc."

Romualdez said he does not receive anything from the PFF that would qualify as a salary.



ROMUALDEZ

## First Gent should not abandon the athletes

IT IS HARD FOR ME TO BELIEVE THAT IN these unhappy times of dwindling budget for Philippine sports, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo would be so perplexed as to shirk his duty to the cash-strapped Filipino athletes by abandoning his fund-raising scheme to help the country's campaign in this year's Asian Games in Doha, Qatar.

Mr. Arroyo should not walk away from his involvement in sports. Recall that last year he did a commendable job of raising about P160 million to help finance the training of the Philippine delegation that won, for the first time, the overall championship of the Southeast Asian Games. He will forever be remembered for that.

While it is true that the First Gentleman was booed—in local cinemas—when he appeared atop the ring (with Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson) shortly after Filipino boxing hero Manny Pacquiao stopped Mexico's Erik Morales in Las Vegas last January, such was not the case when, with his big help, the Philippines emerged victorious in the 23rd SEA Games.

With the Doha Asian Games only nine months away, the stone-broke Philippine sports needs a patron like him, a knight in shining armor sort of, especially after a measly budget of P28 million has been proposed in Congress for the Philippine Sports Commission. In the 2002 Asian Games held in Busan, South Korea, the Philippines won three gold medals courtesy of the men's 9-ball doubles team of Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Antonio "Nickoy" Luning in billiards, the men's doubles team of

### CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



Paeng Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista in bowling, and equestrian entry Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski in show jumping.

"We need more support from the private sector to boost our campaign in the Asian Games," said former Rep. Harry Angpin of the softball association. "These private firms keep us going."

On the other hand, athletics president and Philippine Asian Games Task Force head Go Teng Kok said the Philippine Olympic Committee is set to conduct fund-raising projects, as well as adopt cost-cutting measures, aimed at helping the Philippine contingent to the Doha Games. Back from Doha last week, Go (together with POC administrative officer Moring Marremon) said the Asian organizers are giving free board and lodging to all bona fide members of the Philippine delegation during their stay in Doha, thus "saving us a lot of money."

**BITS AND PIECES:** Former POC president Col. Julian Malonso (ret.) is at it again. In a press statement, the ageless Malonso said: "Politicians should not hold positions in the national sports associations. Sports is used by

politicians for their political mileage." He also stressed that sending athletes for training in foreign countries is short-lived... With a banner cast of 95 couples seeing action, the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines will mark its 10th anniversary by staging the 2006 DSCP 1st Quarter Ranking and Competition at the PhilSports Arena starting at 11 a.m. tomorrow. To ensure fair officiating, council president Becky Garcia said five international licensed judges from abroad will adjudicate the tournament sponsored by San Miguel Corp., Petron BPI-Mastercard, PCSO, Philippine Sports Commission, Joey 92.3 Rhythim, POC, Pagcor, Water Zone, Savannah Moon and Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. For ticket inquiries, call Anafaye Lee at 635-0116... San Pablo City will be one of the out-of-town venues of the popular Milo Best Center summer basketball clinic on May 22-27 at the LSPC (Trade School) in Laguna. Aimed at getting the youngsters into sports and keeping them away from drugs and other vices during their vacation, Best Center has produced many of the country's leading amateur and professional players. For details, call BJ Cuello at (049) 246-5377, (049) 800-3015 and 0921-571-4355, or Best coaching staff member Manu Iñigo at 0915-590-5940. Classes will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 noon... I have no doubt that the horse to watch in the Philracom Stakes Race at the Sta. Ana Park on Sunday is the fast-striding Real Spicy owned by businessman-sportsman Hermie Esquerza. One of the country's winningest horses, Real Spicy is a four-year-old chestnut son of Real Quiet out of Spicy Tale.

### SPORTSWATCH

#### Women in Sports tour visits DLSU

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY WELCOMES THE WOMEN IN SPORTS 2006 CAMPUS tour of the Philippine Sports Commission at 12:15 p.m. tomorrow. The theme of the visit is Breaking Barriers: Rewards of Young Woman's Involvement in Sports. Former University of the Philippines human kinetics professor Lydia Buendia and RP traditional boat race women's team captain Geraldine Bernardo will share their personal experiences in the sporting arena. International Labor Organization deputy director for Southeast Asia and the Pacific Kelko Nimi will also be on hand to discuss the ILO's focus on women in sports and its collaboration with the PSC for this year's celebration of Women's Month.

#### Golden Sunset-FVR Cup reset March 24

THE FIRST GOLDEN SUNSET-FVR CUP INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT, originally slated for today, was moved to March 24 at the Calatagan Golf Club in Calatagan, Batangas. A bus, which leaves at 7 p.m. for Calatagan, will be available in front of the National Press Club in Intramuros on March 23. For inquiries, call ra or Jena at 0917-8974234 or 724-5672.

#### 70 fights in Pasay cockfest today

SEVENTY FIGHTS ARE ON TAP IN A BIG 4-COCK DERBY TODAY AT THE PASAY City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complex 3000 as sponsor. A cash pot of P300,000 await the winners of this one-day contest hosted by U. Diokno and RCD Group. Diokno has invited participants from groups like PCCA, PCAP and GCAP according to pit manager Eric dela Rosa. Three more 4-cockers are scheduled at the venue: March 17, hosted by the PCCA, March 24 (Boy Layag and May Bobby Doromal) and March 31 (Tony Lasala). For inquiries, call 843-1890 or 843-1746.



**LAST QUALIFIER:** Marist School coaches Jerome Maramang and Manuel Cuevas give their 12-under dribblers a pep-talk en route to clinching the last ticket to the National Finals of the Cherif Targad Sagad Basketball Tournament in Antipolo recently. Marist School joins San Beda-Manila, Imus Pilot School-Cavite and St. Scholastica Academy-Pampanga in the Cherif hoopfest supported by Adidas.

<p>Face 1—(Orin)—Screaming Eagle (1), Cool Mol (5), Just Joshua (4), American Idol (2)</p> <p>Face 2—(Orin)—Something New (4), La Española (5), St. Lawrence (6), Steve Dignity (3)</p> <p>Face 3—(Orin)—Bonster (3), Joker (2), Crystal City (1), Michaela Mia (5), Asig (1)</p> <p>Face 4—(Pera)—Playmaker (3), Topo Rally (11), Black Pearl (14), Humble Guest (10), Sauterian (17)</p>	<p>Face 5—(Orin)—Batang Westside (5), Maria Mag (3), Modern Spirit (2), Luck of the Irish (4)</p> <p>Face 6—(Pera)—Diablo Dasher the Donator (9), Tall Henry (4), Sargay Gold (9), Jaw Breaker (6), The Majikan (11)</p>	<p>Face 7—(Orin)—Sweet Talk (3), Bestwishes Banzor (4), Vitality (2), Key Element (1)</p> <p>Face 8—(Pera)—God Is Good (6), Dio/Die/Die (9), Bold Lucky (7), Valentino Girl (1), Power of Longevity (4)</p> <p>Face 9—(Super 6/Orin)—Guayas Chirri (8), Cool Turno (1), Anytime Anywhere (11), Inlay Inlay (9), Stop Any (4), Hot and Hearty (5)</p>
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#### BY TOP CHOICE

## Banquiles, Alcala head top junior shuttlers' bid

JAN BANQUILES AND MAIWINNE Ann Venice Alcala spearhead the bid of the fancied bats when the JVC Open Juniors Championships kick off its third staging on March 25-26 at SM Megamall.

Banquiles and Alcala won the boys and girls' 10-and-under singles and doubles crowns in last year's tourney. A 12-under class has been added to the tournament as part of

JVC (Phils.) Inc.'s effort to expand the base of its junior program.

To accommodate the big number of entries, the organizing IMG will hold a series of qualifiers from March 21-24 at PowerSmash. Registration is free. Deadline for submission of entries is on March 15.

For details, log on to [www.jvcbadminton.com](http://www.jvcbadminton.com) or email at [jvcbadminton@hotmail.com](mailto:jvcbadminton@hotmail.com).

## 2 games up as NBC... From page A21

James Zablan, Rey Paul Javier, Mike Dixon and Michael Gonzales and rookie Ryan Regalado.

But coach Ramon Bayot, a former NCAA and PBA player, is confident that Tagaytay will be able to give a good fight.

Tagaytay will be bannered by Rodel Mallari, Paolo Malonzo, Joel Pinular, McDonald Santos, Arden Guynab, rookie Tito Reyes, Rey Ober, Ian Pelleyera, Gian Carlo Yabut, Eric Larica, Ian Bayot, Don Mordeno, Nelson Genido and Maurice Las-

cana. Bacchus/Harbour will pin its hopes on Nani Epondulan, Britt Remora, Magnum Membrane and Jay-R Aquino.

Spring-Paranaque is leaning on Rodel Mallari, Danny Capobres, Mar Reyes and off-season recruits Harold Sia, Cruz, Patrick Tongco, Ariel de Castro and Marvin Yambao.

The opening rites and the Tagaytay-Pangasinan match will be aired at 9:30 p.m. tomorrow over Prime Channel.



FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2006

# Fiery Kobe ruins Hornets homecoming

NEW YORK—KOBE BRYANT POURED IN 40 points as the Los Angeles Lakers eased to a 113-107 win over New Orleans on Wednesday, spoiling the Hornets' homecoming to the hurricane-battered Big Easy.

A standing room only crowd of more than 17,000 welcomed the Hornets back to the rebuilt New Orleans Arena and cheered their team throughout the entire contest, the first professional sporting event staged in the city since Hurricane Katrina roared ashore last August leaving behind widespread devastation.

Since being forced from their home, the Hornets, like many of the city's residents, have found shelter elsewhere taking up temporary residence in Oklahoma City.

With basketball back in the Big Easy, Bryant put on a show scoring 18 of his points in the decisive fourth quarter while going 14-of-16 from the free throw line.

Lamar Odom contributed 18 points and 17 rebounds to the Los Angeles cause while Smush Parker helped out with 16 points and seven assists as the Lakers notched their third win in four games.

David West led the Hornets with 25 with Chris Paul and Speedy Claxton each chipping in with 22.

Leading 93-88 midway through the final quarter, it had appeared the Hornets' homecoming might be a winning one until Bryant went to work.

But the Hornets made sure the night would be an entertaining one pulling to within 102-101 with 90 seconds to play.

Any hope of a win, however, disappeared in a Lakers 8-0 run to put the contest out of reach.

In Miami, Dwayne Wade returned from injury to score a game-high 40 points leading the red-hot Heat to a 118-112 decision over the Washington Wizards and their 10th straight win.

Jason Williams contributed 21 points to the Heat total while Shaquille O'Neal had 19 and 11 rebounds.

Reuters

COMPLETE RESULTS: Cleveland 98, Toronto 97; Detroit 106, Chicago 101; Charlotte 104, Golden State 101; Boston 104, Philadelphia 101; Miami 118, Washington 112; LA Lakers 113, N.O. Hornets 107; Sacramento 123, Milwaukee 116; Houston 103, Indiana 99; Utah 98, Minnesota 93; Memphis 98, Seattle 74.

SQ. AR Sports will air the Denver-Philadelphia tussle at 9 a.m. today with a replay at 6 p.m.



UTAH Jazz's Andre Kirilenko (47) dunks against the Minnesota Timberwolves in Salt Lake City.

## Tierro gains India q'finals

FILIPINO DAVIS CUPPER PATRICK John Tierro shocked third seed Manuel Jorquera of Italy, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, yesterday and entered the quarterfinals of the India Association of Tennis Professionals/International Tennis Federation Satellite Circuit.

Tierro, who beat local bet Vardhan Vishnu in the first round, was cruising to victory at 3-1 and 40-0 in the fifth game of the second set when the Italian, ranked No. 600 in the world, regained his touch from the baseline.

But Tierro kept his composure, breaking Jorquera's serve at 2-all then won the last four games. He closed the match with a service winner.

Tierro, who has already qualified to next week's \$25,000 New Delhi Masters reserved for the Circuit's top 24 earners, will try to make the



TIERRO

semis against another Italian ace and fifth seed Federico Torres.

Playing brilliantly, Torres showed the door to top seed and world No. 373 Alexey Kedriouk of Kazakhstan, 6-4, 7-5.

In an overseas call, Tierro, playing under the sponsorship of sportsman Jean Henri Dhuiller of the Dhuiller Group of Companies the last two years, and supported by Philta, credited his serve for the victory.

"My serve has become better and more dependable now. I also improved my backhand returns," said Tierro. "Now I could attack more and not get tired. My weeks of technical training in Subic and the plyometric program helped me add more dimensions to my game. I'm having more fun playing now."

Tierro is expected to see action in 25 international events this year. Dennis U. Eroa

# Canada shames US batters at own turf

PHOENIX, ARIZONA—A CANADIAN LINEUP of prospects and little-known major leaguers stunned the United States, 8-6, here Wednesday in a World Baseball Classic shocker that humbled a star-studded American squad.

In a baseball version of the "Miracle on Ice" 1980 US Olympic hockey upset of the Soviet Union, Canada's "Miracle on Grass" featured American fans booing their team after it fell behind 8-0 after 4 1/2 innings.

"It's the best win in Canada's history, no question. They are a powerhouse team," Canadian manager Ernie Whitt said.

"We don't have the depth a lot of other countries do, but we have a lot of heart. I don't know if it's the hockey mentality or what. They never quit. That makes me proud."

The favored American millionaire lineup could be eliminated on tie-breakers from the first global showdown featuring Major League Baseball talent before Friday's Pool B game against South Africa.

"It was very much disappointment," US manager Buck Martinez said. "It's a very quiet locker room right now. Everybody feels like they got kicked in the stomach. They have a lot of pride. It's a tough feeling right now."

Baseball's birthplace saw big names back out of the Classic for fear of injury or desire to prepare for April's start of the club season. In a sport that is the American national pastime,

the humiliation in defeat was complete.

"I don't know that there is such a thing as an embarrassment," Martinez said. "There are quite a few teams that can beat anybody in this tournament."

Canada's Adam Stern went 3-for-4, drove in four runs and made a leaping catch to keep the US squad from tying the score in the eighth inning.

AFP

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### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Commission on Audit, intends to apply the sum of Eleven Million Eight Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Pesos (Php 11,833,045.00) broken down as follows:

ITEM	BR.EF DESCRIPTION	SUB-ABC
Lot 1	PC and Appurtenances, Branded	8,228,315.00
Lot 2	Printers and Scanners, Branded	4,344,230.00
Lot 3	Multi-Media Projectors and Accessories	1,260,500.00
Total ABC		Php 11,833,045.00

being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Assorted IT Equipment. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the Bid opening.

2. Interested Bidders may obtain a complete set of Bidding Documents starting March 13 to April 3, 2006, upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Seven Thousand pesos (Php 7,000.00) from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Ms. Lita E. Diaz, Procurement Division COA, Central Office, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

3. The Commission on Audit will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 20, 2006 2:00 p.m. at the BAC Office, Room 102 Ground Floor, former SAADO Building, COA Complex Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

4. Deadline for the submission of Bids shall be on April 3, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the BAC Office, Room 102 Ground Floor former SAADO Building COA Complex Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City immediately after the deadline, bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

5. The Bids and Awards Committee of the Commission on Audit reserves the right to reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) Asst. Com. ARCADIO B. CUENCO, JR.  
Chairman

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDF: March 10, 2006)

## P. Princesa Off-Road Challenge begins

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY WILL PLAY HOST to a two-in-one 4x4 Off-Road Challenge and Scooter Time Trials as part of the festivities for the 2nd Balayong Festival at the Sta. Monica Raceway today and tomorrow.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn has brought MP Turbo's Ultimate Speedfest Championship over to stage the twin events as part of the month-long celebration of Puerto Princesa's Foundation day last March 4.

"We are very happy that Puerto Princesa, through Mayor Edward Hagedorn, has agreed to host the first round of our series," said Mike Potenciano, MP Turbo's chief organizer and veteran racer.

The 2006 Balayong Festival 4x4 Challenge is presented by Puerto Princesa City, Oplan head Ms. Ellen Hagedorn, City Administrator lawyer Augustin Rocamora, Councilor Mark Hagedorn and City Sports head Noli Hitosis.

Additional support was provided by Superferry, Honda Motorcycles, Honda Prestige, GSM Blue, Red Horse Beer and GOG Pipes.

The event will be covered by SPEED TV and shown on ABC 5 every Monday, 4:30 p.m. with replays in Prime Channel and international viewing through the Pinoy TV of ABS-CBN Global Network.

For details, call MP Turbo at 0919-4921575 or email at mpturbo@mydestiny.net

## All-Filipino s'finals up as Mantua, Rubillar win

CHIEF MANTUA OF PAGADIAN CITY routed past Japanese Naoki Miyake, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3, and Davao City's Dodong Rubillar survived Masaya Taira, 6-2, 7-6 (7-2), to complete the semifinal cast in the 2006 Kobe Gakuin Cup Invitational Tennis tournament at the Ayala Alabang Tennis Club.

Mantua will meet Elbert Anasta while Rubillar battles national player Johnny Arcilla in the semifinal round scheduled late this afternoon. Anasta defeated Fuyuk. Ogawa, 6-3, 6-1, while Arcilla downed Masaki Kawazu, 6-1, 7-5, in the other quarterfinal pairings.

Earlier, Kawazu bounced back to beat national coach Rolando Ruel Jr., 6-7 (5), 7-5, 7-6 (3); Rocky Paglalunan subdued Junpei Okabe, 6-3, 6-2, Jaime Solon downed Shohei Maruyama, 7-6 (2), 6-2, and Gilbert Estrada outlasted Junpei Okabe, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

The champion in this five-day event supported by tennis patron Romy Chan will receive P20,000 and the runner-up P10,000.

Meanwhile, the Kobe Gakuin University team defeated University of the Philippines, 8-1; NCAA Selection, 7-2; and the UAAP selection, 8-1, in dual matches held last weekend.

## WW-Malarayat provisional Corporate Cup pacesetter

BAGUIO CITY—WACK WACK MALARAYAT drew a couple of 50 points from Dong Mendoza and Gerald Katgbak to emerge as provisional Group I leader in the 18th Philippine Corporate Cup at the Camp John Hay Golf Club course here.

Together with the 47 points of Emil Alviar, the Wack Wack-Malarayat squad totaled 147 for the day and 296 for two days to lead by 16 points over Matikas' 83 (147-280), with 12 teams still to complete their final rounds yesterday.

Le Chef looms as the biggest threat to Wack-Wack-Malarayat as Fred Puckett shot a tournament-best 54, Goody Ignacio made 53 and Ben Lucican added 48 for a first-round 155. Le Chef needs just 142 points to clinch the crown.

Also in contention for the Group I title were Camp John Hay Development Corp., which stood at 148 after getting 52s from Jimmy Borromeo and Shean Bedi, as well as Nueva Ecija and Crystal Dew with similar 146 aggregates.

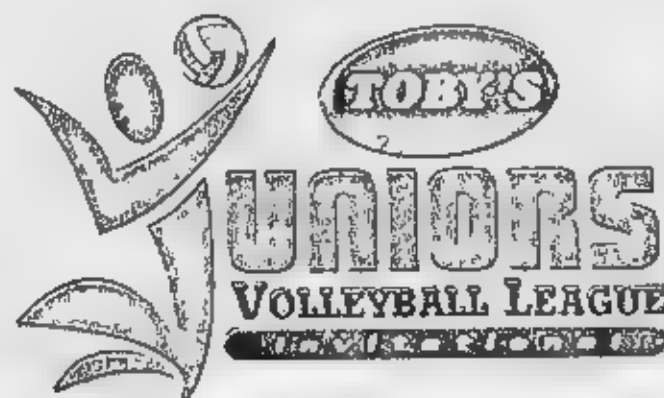
The journey enjoys major backing from Camp

John Hay Manor, Camp John Hay Golf Club, Camp John Hay Dev't Corp., Club Leisure Management Corp., Golfence, Information Professionals Inc., MRT, Le Chef and Wilson. Figaro, Hoishots, Strawberries and Flavours Ice Cream and Pizza Hut are minor sponsors.

Club Marinduque was the runaway leader by 24 over Advanced Medical Systems B in Group II with 141-272; Techsafe Inc. (116-231) was ahead by 19 over Corinthians 1440 in Group III, Manila East Medical Center (76-143) led BASF 1 by 10 in Group IV, and Powerlux (119-225) paced the seniors division.

Individual leaders were Jack Mendoza, Ronald Dizon and Gerald Katgbak all at 103 in Group I, Alex Ignacio of Matikas (93) in Group II, Sharyn Hudson of Brewery and June Hwang of Zamboanga 2 with 81s in Group III, Ray Valdez of Wack Wack-Malarayat (85) in Group IV and Fred Carandang of Powerlux (82) in seniors play.

A total of 274 teams are seeing action in the biggest ever staging of the tournament.



**Semi Final Matches Tomorrow  
March 11 at Talayan Sports Center  
Talayan Village, Quezon City**

**Scheduled Matches:**

11:00am - Quirino Elem. vs. UPHM (Boys)  
1:00pm - DLS - Lipa vs. UPHM (Girls)  
2:00pm - DLS - Lipa vs. St. Jude (Boys)  
3:00pm - CSA vs. St. Jude (Girls)

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor  
Emmie G. Velarde

WINNERS Neill dela Lianza (left) and Ian Gamazon

## But where's the cash?

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

FIVE MONTHS AFTER THE Cinemanda International Film Festival, winners in the local digital competition have yet to

receive cash prizes totaling P3.25 million.

Thus was disclosed by winners Mes de Guzman and Brisco Santos and Aries Jimenez, officer in

BUT WHERE'S A2-2

## At the Indies, where 'Cavite' won

LOS ANGELES—ACTRESS LILI TAYLOR'S mispronunciation of "Cavite" when its Filipino-American filmmakers Ian Gamazon and Neill De la Lianza won a prize Saturday last week at the Independent Spirit Awards reflected the easygoing vibe at these indie Oscars.

Lili, who presented—with William Dafoe—the IFC/Acura Someone to Watch Award with a \$25,000 unrestricted grant to R-born Ian and Neill, pronounced it as "Ca-veet."

In other awards shows, presenters are thoroughly rehearsed so they will pronounce names and titles correctly. Things are done differently at the Indies; by its very name, it is the opposite of the Oscars, which tends to take itself too seriously.

Just going to this event, traditionally held on the eve of the Oscars, felt different. I drove to Santa Monica, where I was supposed to take a shuttle to the venue, a tent set up right on the beach. But at the appointed terminal, a volunteer advised me to walk, as the shuttle had been delayed.

I smiled at the chance to stroll close to the Pacific Ocean on a glorious California afternoon, to an awards show, in my jeans and Rockports. The sky

was a perfect blue. People on rollerblades and bikes glided by.

In minutes, the white tent came into view. A small crowd of tourists and pedestrians had gathered to watch the arriving stars. At the Oscars, you couldn't approach the vicinity of the Kodak Theatre without a badge. Just try.

### ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

I watched the scene with the on-lookers before checking in at the press booth. Most stars drove themselves (gasps); a few arrived in limos. George Clooney got the loudest cheers. He immediately walked over to the fans, signed autographs and posed for snapshots.

The massive tent could house a Barnum & Bailey circus. The tent has come to symbolize the awards show, which began in the early 1980s and which celebrates artistic independence and challenges the status quo.

In the first years, the program was reportedly made of construction paper. Only a few press people bothered to attend the affair held in a little restaurant. The practice of holding the show on Oscars eve has stuck for the original reason: the stars are in town.

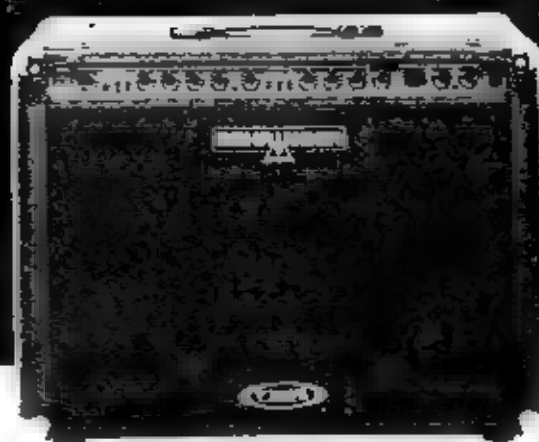
Now, the show, which is presented by Film Independent, is televised. There is a red carpet,

though most folks still come in jeans, athletic shoes or t-shirts. There are no Harry Winston diamonds in sight but many women do wear elegant dresses. Felicity Huffman, who went on to win Best Actress came in a white full-length gown.

AT THE A2-4

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## When Pia went to the Oscars

By Ruben v. Nepales  
LA Correspondent

Photos by Janet Susan R. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—SENDING PIA CLEMENTE, Pil-Am nominee, off to the Oscars was a big production.

More than 30 people turned up at the house of Pia's uncle and aunt, Poi and Aida Idos, to do her hair and make-up, dress her up or simply to wish her good luck.

Larry Clemente—more nervous than his daughter—paced the sidewalk in front of his sister's house in Mission Hills. He was a welcome sight to guests who had lost their way.

Pia, dressed in a beanie, blouse and skirt before perhaps the biggest glamour makeover in her life, greeted everyone.

There was lunch of *pancit*, *menudo* and *lumpiang shanghai*, that was enjoyed by all, including the Caucasian limo driver who had come to pick up Pia and entourage. Of course, they could not depart on schedule. This was a Filipino production and everyone took their sweet time.

In the living room, designer Rajo Laurel—who just fulfilled his dream to dress up someone for the Oscars—was ironing two shawls for the gown that he and David Tlupaz had created for Pia.

David told us how he convinced Pia, a simple girl with simple tastes, not to worry about going glam for one of the biggest nights of her life.

Pia calmly submitted to the makeup handiwork of Pil-Am stylist Maxi, who went about his business like an artist painting on canvas.

Next, Lingayen native PJ Tandoc worked his magic on Pia's hair. He said he had come up with

"a French twist with a peacock-rounded hairstyle." Petite Pia did look taller after PJ's ministrations.

When it was time for her to change into the champagne-colored gown that she chose from the three dresses that Rajo had hand-carried from Manila, Pia went into a room with Rajo and David. Everyone oohed and aahed when she emerged minutes later.

Pia wore earrings made of Austrian crystals, designed for her by David. On her wrist was a vintage bracelet from an aunt.

When Pia/A2-5



PIA, coiffed and made-up.

WHEN PIA/A2-5



RAJO at the ironing board, and David

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Per DTI-MCR Permit No. 1207  
Series of 2006  
\*\*\*Prime Duration:  
March 6 to April 30, 2006



A21

## NOW SHOWING

IN AMERICA THERE'S 'THE AMITYVILLE HORROR'...  
IN THE U.K. THERE IS 'THE DARK'



**A GRIEF-STRICKEN FAMILY,  
A TRAGEDY-HAUNTED HOUSE ON THE  
CLIFFS OF WALES AND A SMALL  
TOWN'S SECRET HISTORY**

In an attempt to pull her family together, New Yorker Adele Tullian travels with her daughter Sarah to Anglesey, Wales in the U.K. to visit her contractor father - James Tullian.

The morning after they arrive, Sarah mysteriously vanishes. While the parents desperately search for Sarah, a guilt-ridden Adele is haunted by visions of her daughter as though she is trapped somewhere inside the haunted house. Adele soon learns of an ancient local legend of a place called The Dark - an ethereal land of the dead - and she becomes convinced that Sarah is communicating to her from The Dark.

Not long after Sarah disappears, Adele and James find themselves involved with a girl who not only bears a striking resemblance to their missing daughter, but reveals that she has returned from the dead to inform them on how to get Sarah back. They must follow the rule: "one of the living, for one of the dead. The living must be sacrificed so that the dead can return. Townsfolk suspect that the Tullians are succumbing to the legacy of madness and murder that overwhelmed the house's previous tenants.

**DARK**

SEAN BEAN MARIA BELLO

BASED ON A  
TRUE INCIDENT  
THAT TAPS INTO A  
WELSH  
MYTHOLOGY



## AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

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days**

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your things for the coolest  
destinations this summer!

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at the ticket booths.

Deadline of all raffle entries  
is on May 19, 2006

Drawing of winner is  
on May 20, 2006.

Winners will be notified  
by registered mail and phone call.

Special thanks to



Per DTI NCR Permit No. AI-200 Series of 2006

## But where's ...

From page A2-1

charge of the Tourism and Cultural Affairs Bureau of the City of Manila, major sponsor of the event.

Aureus Solito's "Tulu," first place winner, was supposed to receive P1.5 million; second placer De Guzman's "Ang Daan Patungong Kaamug-tong," P1 million; and third placer Santos' "la Verde, Ala Pobre," P750,000.

Jimenez told INQUIRER in a phone interview that city hall was "still looking for other possible sources of funds." He said city hall had requested P1 million from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). "But we only received P900,000 [and were promised] the balance of P100,000 upon liquidation."

The P900,000 NCCA grant was to have been divided among the five finalists (who received P100,000 each) and the second and third place winners, Jimenez said.

"We planned to award the cash prize to the first placer at a later date," he added.

And so at press time, the finalists have received their cash prizes, but not the winners. "Not a single centavo," De Guzman reiterated.

Pressed for a time table, Jimenez declined and simply said, "Hopefully [it will be] soon."

## Two ...

From page A2-6

Jessica Alba.  
How do you deal with aggressive gays?

I am not homophobic but when they get too forward I back off. I respect gay relationships but it's something I'll never get into.

What kind of a lover are you?  
The one-woman type.

How can a girl satisfy you?

She should take care of me like a baby and be nice to my family.

Should she be a virgin?

It doesn't really matter to me.

Piolo in love?

From Polo, we go to Piolo. There seems to be a special someone in Piolo Pascual's life. He has blocked off a whole week in June from his super-busy sched just to make sure he can celebrate this mystery girl's birthday in a big way. Someone told me he has been stocking up on the ice cream, the girl's favorite, and has ordered a 10-foot high balloon and flower arrangement (pink and white anthurums) for the lucky lass. Who could she be?

(E-mail: wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com)

### AT THE CINEMAS

Receive your tickets by texting BURESAUTS 0937 or BURESEATS 04 to 2332 or by logging on to www.bureseats.com for web reservations.

<b>G1</b>	1 DATE MOVIE	2 16 BLOCKS	3 UNDERCLASSMAN	4 THE DARK
<b>G4</b>	1 CASANOVA	2 YOURS, MINE & OURS	3 15 BLOCKS	4 15 BLOCKS
	4 CAPOTE	5 FEARLESS	6 DATE MOVIE	7 LAST HOLIDAY
<b>GB1</b>	1 DATE MOVIE	2 CASANOVA		
<b>GB3</b>	1 16 BLOCKS	2 16 BLOCKS		
	3 LAST HOLIDAY	4 YOURS, MINE & OURS	5 CASANOVA	
<b>AT6</b>	1 16 BLOCKS	2 CASANOVA		
<b>ACC</b>	1 16 BLOCKS	2 DATE MOVIE	3 YOURS, MINE & OURS	4 ST ANGE
<b>W2</b>	1 16 BLOCKS	2 YOURS, MINE & OURS		
	3 UNDERCLASSMAN	4 CASANOVA	5 DATE MOVIE	

### At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900  
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta 752 7272 from 10am to 8pm  
Greenbelt 752 4853 from 11am to 12pm

<b>GLORIETTA</b>  Jasmine Trias Visit March 11 2006	<b>ALABANG TOWN CENTER</b>  Anson's Emporium Exhibit March 12 to 31 2006
<b>AYALA CENTER CEBU</b>  National Buntis Day - Ayala Foundation's Social Development Week March 10, 2006	<b>MARKET! MARKET!</b>  Woman's Today Summer Picks Event March 16, 2006

**GREENBELT** Ayala Greenbelt's Chocolate Festival  
February 13 to March 15, 2006

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Philip Seymour Hoffman

## capote

The manipulation of the master manipulator

★★★★★  
(Highest Rating) ...  
exacting portrait of a singular artist.  
Philip Seymour Hoffman's brilliant transformation  
into the mannered writer takes your breath away."  
--- Claudia Pulg, USA Today

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MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13  
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## 2 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS

RAY ADAMS CHARLIZE THERON AND TONY GUYERSON ADAMS FRANCES McDORMAND



OPENS MARCH 22

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SHE HAS THREE WEEKS TO LIVE...  
THE REST OF HER LIFE

QUEEN LATIFAH

# LAST HOLIDAY

AT RISK  
BATTING  
FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE

MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

COMEDY ADVENTURE FROM THE L.A. TIMES BEST MOVIE PREPAGE

**NICK CANNON**

# UNDERCLASSMAN

GET READY TO BE SCHOOLED

MTRCB R-18 RESTRICTED  
CUTS FOR ADULTS  
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IT'S ABOUT LOVE  
IT'S ABOUT ROMANCE  
AND MORE CRAP LIKE THAT

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HONOR  
COURAGE

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# FEARLESS

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# YOURS, MINE & OURS

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Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

**GREENHILLS CINEMAS**

THEATRE-MALL GREENHILLS

DATE MOVIE  
10:30 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30 10:30  
R13

LAST HOLIDAY  
10:30 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30 10:30  
G

**PROMENADE**

16 BLOCKS CASANOVA YOURS, MINE & OURS

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QUENTIN TARANTINO PRESENTS

# HOSTEL

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ELI ROTH

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2006

A2-3

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For inquiries call:  
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**GUARANTEED SEATS**  
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

<b>CASSANOVA</b> 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 R-13
<b>YOURS, MINE AND OURS</b> 11:40, 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 11:00 GP
<b>16 BLOCKS</b> 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
<b>LAST HOLIDAY</b> 11:55, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35 GP

**POWER PLANT**

Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. Nos. 8991-440-44

<b>DATE MOVIE</b> R13 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40	<b>CASSANOVA</b> R13 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10	<b>YOURS, MINE AND OURS</b> Q 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:25
<b>THE LAST HOLIDAY</b> G 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	<b>UNDERCLASSMAN</b> R13 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	<b>16 BLOCKS</b> PG13 1:35, 3:45, 5:55, 8:05, 10:20

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR INFORMATION CALL 856-141-11  
Reflex Screenings before 5:00 p.m. "Free Seating" P117.00 - Monday-Friday.

Rockwell Vintage Bazaar Summer Chic

March 18-19  
Rockwell Tent

**POWER PLANT MALL**

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## 3RD WEEK

MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

# THE #1 MOVIE IN MANILA!

Can You Predict Your Own Death?

When? Where? How?

Find Out...

# FINAL DESTINATION 3



# Bamboo in Davao



BAMBOO

## SHOW TIME

BAMBOO PERFORMS AT D'Venu in Davao tomorrow, as part of the 2006 Winston Wings Tour. Only those 18 years old and above will be admitted to the show. IDs will be required. On March 17, 7 a.m., the Winston series holds another gig at Atchies Restobar on Ortigas, Pasig City, featuring Imago, Stonefree and Velcro.

# SHANG CINEPLEX

1 YOURS, MINE & OURS 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00 LMF	3 DATE MOVIE MTRCB R-18 2:20 4:15 6:10 8:05 10:00
2 16 BLOCKS MTRCB PG-13 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00 LMF	4 CASANOVA MTRCB R-13 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

## PREMIERE THEATRE THE LAST HOLIDAY

MTRCB QP 1:16 3:45 6:15 9:00 LMF

### Catch the Cineplex Special

Get a Mini Shabu-Shabu Cash Certificate worth P100.00 for every single purchase of two (2) tickets of any movie at the Shang Cineplex

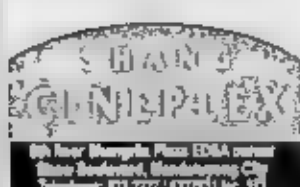
Promo Period: Feb 15 to Mar 15, 2006. See Posters For Details. Per DTI-NCR Permit Number A3-0186. Series of 2006.

Call 02-796-1111 or 171 or 833-2227.



# MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING



1:00pm	YOURS, MINE & OURS
2:00pm	16 BLOCKS
3:00pm	DATE MOVIE
4:00pm	CASANOVA
5:00pm	LAST HOLIDAY



1:00pm	THE DARK
2:00pm	FINAL DESTINATION 3
3:00pm	THE LAST HOLIDAY
4:00pm	DATE MOVIE
5:00pm	16 BLOCKS
6:00pm	YOURS, MINE & OURS
7:00pm	CASANOVA
8:00pm	FEARLESS
9:00pm	CLOSE TO YOU



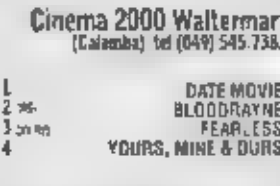
1:00pm	CASANOVA
2:00pm	YOURS, MINE & OURS
3:00pm	16 BLOCKS
4:00pm	LAST HOLIDAY



1	16 BLOCKS
2	FEARLESS PG-13
3	YOUR MINE & OURS - GP
4	



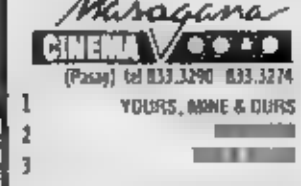
1:00pm	YOURS, MINE & OURS
2:00pm	DATE MOVIE
3:00pm	16 BLOCKS
4:00pm	



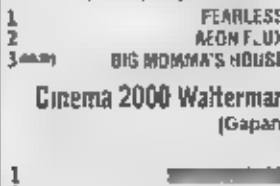
1	DATE MOVIE
2	BLOODRAYNE
3	FEARLESS
4	YOURS, MINE & OURS



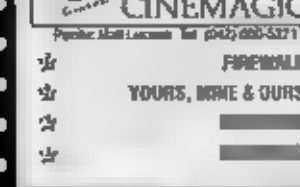
1	16 BLOCKS
2	FEARLESS PG-13
3	YOUR MINE & OURS - GP
4	



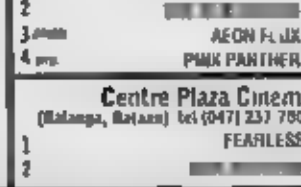
1	YOURS, MINE & OURS
2	
3	
4	



1	FEARLESS
2	AEON FLUX
3	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4	



1	YOURS, MINE & OURS
2	
3	
4	



1	CLOSE TO YOU
2	
3	AEON FLUX
4	PINK PANTHER



1	FEARLESS
2	
3	
4	

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

## At the Indies

From page A2-1

On Saturday, the old tent had been replaced with a deeper one to accommodate more than 1,200 guests. Several smaller tents surrounded the main one. InStyle and Entertainment Weekly hosted lounges. There was a gift lounge where stars snapped up shirts, Ray-Bans, tank tops and other goodies.

### Popcorn!

This is the only kudos show where you see Felicity being interviewed near Porta Potres (portable toilets). Virginia Madsen and Aaron Eckhart ate popcorn from a bag while presenting an award. Outside was a popcorn fountain—with an equivalent of a thousand bags of popcorn—that should be seen to be believed.

The show was as irreverent as ever. There was the usual parody of Best Picture nominees through sing-along songs. Macy Gray, Peter Gallagher and Dwight Yoakam obviously had fun. When Fil-Am Ian and Neil went onstage for their crystal IFC/Acura Someone to Watch Award plaques, the former exclaimed, "Wow, this (the \$25,000 grant) is double our budget (for 'Cavite')." At last

It was great to finally meet these guys. We had previously corresponded via e-mail. After their brief Q & A with the media (me and a lady reporter—nobody else had questions), I followed them outside the press tent and we chatted some more.

The guys, cool and laid-back, embody the casual spirit of the indie Oscars. I teased, "So, Ian is the one who wants to meet Winona Ryder?" Both guys earlier admitted being "obsessed" with the actress.

Ian said, "I'd like to write a script around her." The woman assigned to drag the duo from the press tent to InStyle's said they had to move on.

I wondered how they felt as they were suddenly thrust into all the fuss, even being escorted into the InStyle lounge.

The next day I asked in an e-mail if they were sober. Ian summed up his experience: "It was surreal."

(E-mail the columnist at [rvnecules\\_5585@yahoo.com](mailto:rvnecules_5585@yahoo.com).)

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PODIUM	SM CITY RAINVIEW	SM CITY
16 BLOCKS 01:40 FS / 02:10 MF 04:25 / 06:40 / 08:30 LFS 09:00 LMF / 10:45 END	THE DARK YOURS, MINE & OURS BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE FINAL DESTINATION 3	CASANOVA FINAL DESTINATION 3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
YOURS, MINE & OURS 02:15 FS / 02:45 MF 04:50 / 06:55 / 08:25 LFS 09:00 LMF / 10:30 END	UNDERCLASS MAN 16 BLOCKS CLOSE TO YOU LAST HOLIDAY AEON FLUX IT WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU MEMOIRS OF GEISHA	THE DARK YOURS, MINE & OURS FEARLESS 10:30FS / 12:45 03:00 / 05:10 07:20 / 09:05 LFS 09:30 LMF / 11:15 END UNDERCLASS MAN LAST HOLIDAY CLOSE TO YOU PRIDE AND PREJUDICE 16 BLOCKS TIGER BLADE
SM MEGACINEMA	SM CITY SOUTH MALL	
16 BLOCKS 10:15FS / 10:45 MF 01:00 / 03:15 / 05:30 07:45 / 09:30 LFS 04:30 LMF / 05:00 END	CASANOVA FEARLESS RESERVED 16 BLOCKS YOURS, MINE & OURS UNDERCLASS MAN LAST HOLIDAY FINAL DESTINATION 3 THE DARK RESERVED	
YOURS, MINE & OURS FEARLESS RESERVED LAST HOLIDAY CASANOVA THE DARK UNDERCLASS MAN FINAL DESTINATION 3 PAPURI CONCERT TIGER BLADE CLOSE TO YOU	SM CITY SOUTH MALL	
SM CITY NORTH EDSA	SM CITY SOUTH MALL	
CASANOVA 16 BLOCKS THE DARK RESERVED LAST HOLIDAY FINAL DESTINATION 3 YOURS, MINE & OURS FEARLESS	CASANOVA FEARLESS RESERVED 16 BLOCKS YOURS, MINE & OURS UNDERCLASS MAN LAST HOLIDAY FINAL DESTINATION 3 THE DARK RESERVED	
SM CITY CEBU	SM CITY SOUTH MALL	
FEARLESS 16 BLOCKS YOURS, MINE & OURS SYRIANA	SM CITY SOUTH MALL	
	SM CITY SOUTH MALL	
	SM CITY SOUTH MALL	

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Meet Heath Ledger as the legendary seducer, smashbacker, explorer and adventurer Mr. Giacomo Casanova and watch how he is challenged by Sarah Muller as the charming Francesca Bruni

MTRCB Rating R-13  
Only aged 16 and above can watch this film

SM CITY RAINVIEW	LUZON	SM CITY PAMPANGA
FIREWALL AEON FLUX FEARLESS YOURS, MINE & OURS	UNDERCLASS MAN BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 16 BLOCKS FINAL DESTINATION 3 FEARLESS CLOSE TO YOU THE DARK YOURS, MINE & OURS	FEARLESS YOURS, MINE & OURS FINAL DESTINATION 3 Nasaan Si Francis WALK THE LINE CLOSE TO YOU
SM CITY MARILAO	SM CITY STA. ROSA	SM CITY MOLINO
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE FEARLESS CLOSE TO YOU UNDERCLASS MAN	PRIDE AND PREJUDICE YOURS, MINE & OURS FINAL DESTINATION 3 FEARLESS	16 BLOCKS FEARLESS UNDERCLASS MAN FINAL DESTINATION 3
SM CITY CEBU	SM CITY ILOILO	SM CITY DAVAO
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA 11:30FS / 02:00 / 04:30 07:00 / 09:24 LFS 09:30 LMF / 11:50 END FEARLESS 11:20FS / 11:30 MF 01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30 07:30 / 09:15 LFS 09:30 LMF / 11:15 END 16 BLOCKS 11:20FS / 11:30 MF 01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30 07:30 / 09:15 LFS 09:30 LMF / 11:15 END YOURS, MINE & OURS ST. ANGE Nasaan Si Francis CLOSE TO YOU AEON FLUX	YOURS, MINE & OURS RESERVED BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE FEARLESS CLOSE TO YOU NEW WORLD RESERVED Nasaan Si Francis	FIREWALL PROOF CLOSE TO YOU FEARLESS YOURS, MINE & OURS AEON FLUX WALK THE LINE FEARLESS AEON FLUX FIREWALL

SM CITY CEBU	SM CITY ILOILO	SM CITY DAVAO
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA 11:30FS / 02:00 / 04:30 07:00 / 09:24 LFS 09:30 LMF / 11:50 END FEARLESS 11:20FS / 11:30 MF 01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30 07:30 / 09:15 LFS 09:30 LMF / 11:15 END 16 BLOCKS 11:20FS / 11:30 MF 01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30 07:30 / 09:15 LFS 09:30 LMF / 11:15 END YOURS, MINE & OURS ST. ANGE Nasaan Si Francis CLOSE TO YOU AEON FLUX	YOURS, MINE & OURS RESERVED BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE FEARLESS CLOSE TO YOU NEW WORLD RESERVED Nasaan Si Francis	FIREWALL PROOF CLOSE TO YOU FEARLESS YOURS, MINE & OURS AEON FLUX WALK THE LINE FEARLESS AEON FLUX FIREWALL

EXCLUSIVE

Come and visit the

## FEARLESS

EXHIBIT

Actual props and costumes used in the movie are now on display at SM City Manila Cinema lobby from February 22 to March 14

NOW SHOWING



# Teri Hatcher reveals uncle molested her



NEW YORK — TERI Hatcher, one of the stars of "Desperate Housewives," says in the upcoming issue of Vanity Fair that her uncle sexually molested her 35 years ago.

She did not see her uncle after she was 8 or 9 years old and never told her parents, though she thinks they suspected.

"Nobody wanted to talk about it. But all I did was blame myself," AP

SHE says she contemplated suicide. REUTERS

**Blown away**  
"This is something I've tried to hide my whole life," Hatcher tells the magazine, which hits newsstands Friday with the actress on the cover.

"I was just blown away by this young girl's pain," she says. "I thought, boy, that's really close to being me. I haven't tried to kill myself, but I've certainly thought about it."

After Hatcher came forward, her uncle, Richard Hayes Stone, then 64, pleaded guilty to four counts of child molestation in the case of the 14-year-old and received 14 years in prison.

**Hesitation**  
Hatcher said she initially hesitated because tabloids might suggest she was trying to re-suscitate her then-languishing career.

She said she was 5 years old and living in Sunnyvale, California, with her family when Stone would manipulate situations to get her alone with him in his car, where he molested her.

"These are haunting things that I've remembered all my life," she said.

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**PG-13**

## When Pia ...

From page A2-1

Photographer Roger Rojas, who set up a velvet backdrop for Pia's formal photo shoot in the backyard, started working. Pia also posed with her parents and then with her giddy glam team—Rayo, David, Maxi and PJ.

Then it was time for a champagne toast. Holding up a plastic glass (David wanted to get a real champagne glass but there was no time), Pia thanked everybody, especially her family who had flown all the way from New Jersey and Atlanta.

Publicist-friend Winston Emano said Pia's heart would surely beat faster when she sees the star-clogged Hollywood Boulevard.

Pia could bring only her parents to the event but her brothers, Joey (and his wife) and Mark also boarded the limo to enjoy the glamorous ride to the Kodak Theatre.

As Pia disappeared into the limo, Rayo continued to work, arranging her gown so it would stay creaseless all the way to the red carpet.

Pia and Rob Pearlstein both lost—they were nominated for Best Producer and Director, respectively, in the Live Short Film category for "Our Time is Up"—but she said her memories of this special day would forever be cherished.

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<b>THE LAST HOLIDAY</b> 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20	<b>YOURS, MINE &amp; OURS</b> 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	<b>DATE MOVIE</b> 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
<b>THE FEARLESS</b> 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	<b>CASANOVA</b> 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	<b>BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2</b> 3:00 / 7:20 / 12:50 / 5:10 / 9:30

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<b>TIGER BLADE</b> 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20	<b>THE DARK</b> 11:50 / 2:00 / 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30	<b>PG-13</b>

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<b>1 CASANOVA- THX</b> 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	<b>6 YOURS, MINE AND OURS</b> 11:15 1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:45
<b>2 DATE MOVIE</b> 11:15 1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:45	<b>7 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN</b> 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
<b>3 16 BLOCKS</b> 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	<b>8 UNDERCLASS MAN</b> 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40
<b>4 KEYS TO THE HOUSE</b> 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	<b>9 THE DARK</b> 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
<b>5 LAST HOLIDAY</b> 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30	<b>10 FEARLESS</b> 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

**ERMITA 634-7800 to 12**

<b>1 16 BLOCKS</b> 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	<b>5 LAST HOLIDAY</b> 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
<b>2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS</b> 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50	<b>6 YOURS, MINE AND OURS</b> 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
<b>3 UNDERCLASS MAN</b> 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	<b>7 FEARLESS</b> 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
<b>4 THE DARK</b> 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	

**METRO EAST 002-9193 • 002-9199**

<b>1 LAST HOLIDAY</b> 1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05	<b>5 FEARLESS</b> 12:15 2:25 4:35 6:45 9:00
<b>2 CASANOVA</b> 12:15 1:25 4:35 6:45 9:00	<b>6 YOURS, MINE AND OURS</b> 11:45 2:05 4:25 6:45 9:05
<b>3 DATE MOVIE</b> 11:00 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15 9:15	<b>7 16 BLOCKS</b> 11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
<b>4 UNDERCLASS MAN</b> 12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00	<b>8 THE DARK</b> 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

**NOVALICHES 035-3231 / 035-3229-30**

<b>1 YOURS, MINE AND OURS</b>	<b>4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN</b>
<b>2 DATE MOVIE</b>	<b>5 16 BLOCKS</b>
<b>3 CASANOVA</b>	<b>6 UNDERCLASS MAN</b>

**ETISQUARE MALABON 097-5378**

<b>1 BLOODRAYNE</b>	<b>1 16 BLOCKS</b>
<b>2 DATE MOVIE</b>	<b>2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS</b>
<b>3 RESERVE</b>	<b>3 DATE MOVIE</b>
<b>4 RESERVE</b>	<b>4 THE DARK</b>

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<b>3 SYRIANA</b>	<b>3 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN</b>
<b>4 NASAAN SI FRANCIS?</b>	<b>4 YOURS, MINE AND OURS</b>
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<b>3 DATE MOVIE</b>	<b>3 DATE MOVIE</b>
<b>4 16 BLOCKS</b>	<b>4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN</b>
	<b>5 FEARLESS</b>
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<b>3 UNDERWORLD 2</b>	<b>3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2</b>
<b>4 FEARLESS</b>	<b>4 YOURS, MINE AND OURS</b>
<b>5 YOURS, MINE AND OURS</b>	<b>5 MURDER</b>
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<b>3 UNDERWORLD 2</b>	<b>3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2</b>
<b>4 FEARLESS</b>	<b>4 YOURS, MINE AND OURS</b>
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## BUSINESS

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E-mail: pr\_business@inquirer.com.ph  
Website: www.inq7money.netEditor Raul O. Marcelo  
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

## Foreign direct investments up 64% to \$1.1B

Improved fiscal conditions raised investor confidence, says BSP

By Doris C. Dumlaog

NET FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES SURGED BY 64.5 PERCENT IN 2005 TO \$1.1 BILLION ON RISING INVESTOR SENTIMENT TOWARD THE LOCAL MANUFACTURING AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS, THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS REPORTED YESTERDAY.

For the month of December alone, the net FDI flows reached \$91 million or 42.4 percent better than the previous year.

"Improved macroeconomic conditions, particularly on the fiscal front, as well as upbeat expectations for 2006,

heightened investor confidence as equity capital placements expanded by 25.6 percent to \$1.2 billion in 2005 from \$963 million in 2004," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

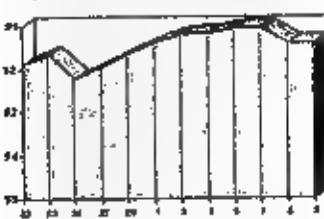
Most of the fresh investments poured in from the United States and Hong Kong.

As opposed to portfolio inflows—also known as "hot money" due to their volatile nature—FDI flows represent long-term investments in brick-and-mortar businesses that are usually capi-

tal and labor-intensive. Much of the inflows are spent in building factories, real estate developments, power plants and mining ventures.

Tetangco noted that the FDI inflows in 2005 had exceeded the BSP's own projected level of \$971 million. He said the growth in FDI last year was boosted by the reversal of the "other capital" account—representing inter-company accounts between investee company and corresponding foreign principals—to a

FOREIGN/B3

INDICATORS  
CURRENCIES

FEBRUARY MARCH

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 51.40 = \$

As of 5 p.m. March 9, 2006

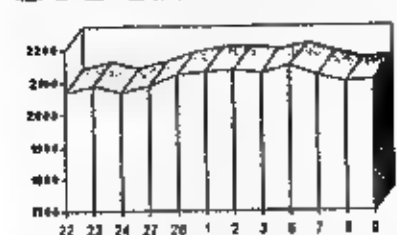
¥ 117.86 = \$1

As of 5 p.m. March 9, 2006

GOLD: \$550.20-550.70

per ounce Hong Kong, March 8, 2006

## STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B3)

## Shares close 0.5% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 0.5 percent higher as selective bargain-hunting in blue-chips provided support after two days of losses, dealers said. However, losses in heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) capped the market's advance, with most investors waiting on the sidelines in the absence of fresh leads, they said. The composite index rose 10.51 points to close at the day's high of 2,109.77 after falling to a low of 2,095.32. However, the broader all-shares index fell 10 points to 1,024.23. Volume was 618.4 million shares worth P869.6 million (\$16.8 million). Gainers led losers 47 to 38, with 58 stocks unchanged.

AFP

RP borrowings  
hit P123.3B  
in January

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BORROWED P123.3 billion in January this year to help plug the budget deficit and service maturing obligations.

The amount was 139 percent higher than the P51.49 billion borrowed during the same month last year. But the huge difference, officials said, was due to the government's decision in January to take advantage of the low interest rates prevailing at that time, and borrow the bulk of its foreign financing requirement for the whole of 2006.

Of the January borrowings, P111.684 billion was sourced from foreign investors, while the P11.613 billion came from domestic creditors.

Foreign borrowings are made either through bond floatation or through official development assistance (ODA) provided by multilateral and bilateral financing institutions. The Philippines' biggest source of ODAs are the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Domestic borrowings come in the form of auctions of Treasury bills and bonds.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that of the external borrowings, those generated from the float of global bonds amounted to P110.534 billion. The rest of the foreign borrowings were ODAs.

Data also showed that the amount of loans the government paid in January amounted to P29.05 billion. Of the loan payments, domestic borrowings accounted for P22.33 billion while foreign obligations accounted for P6.73 billion.

The loan payments for January resulted in the government's net borrowings of P94.24 billion.

Finance officials said the government was trying to reduce its borrowings to keep its debts from ballooning. National Treasurer Omar Cruz had said that the government could afford to trim down its borrowings in the remaining months of the year because of the dwindling budget deficit.

The government's outstanding debt—the amount of accumulated obligations over the years—stood at P3.91 trillion as of November last year. The debt figure was slightly lower than the P3.95 trillion recorded the previous month because, according to the Bureau of the Treasury, the government paid more maturing obligations than it borrowed during the month. This was a result of the dwindling deficit, it added.

The DOF this year wants to reduce the budget deficit to P125 billion—much lower than last year's figure of P146.5 billion.

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## Smart, PLDT lead list of most profitable firms of 2004

**By Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIRMS** were the most profitable companies in 2004 with mobile phone company Smart Communications Inc. recording the highest profit of P19.7 billion, according to the ranking of top 5,000 corporations by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Smart was followed by telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. with P17.7 billion, Bayan Telecommunications Inc. (P14.3 billion) and Bayan Telecommunications Holdings Corp. (P14 billion) of the Lopez group and the Ayala group's Globe Telecom Inc., which ended 2004 with a profit of P11.2 billion.

Completing the list of the top 10 most profitable companies were power generator Mirant (Philippines) Corp., P10.8 billion; Pilipino Telephone Corp., P9.7 billion; Mirant Sugar Corp., P7.7 billion; Bank of the Philippine Islands, P6.7 billion and Nestle Philippines Inc., P6.1 billion.

On the other hand, the top losers in 2004 were Manila Electric Co., Maynilad Water Services Inc., Philips Semiconductors Philippines Inc., Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc., Digitel Mobile Philippines Inc., JG Summit Petrochemical Corp., Caltex (Phils) Inc., CKI Steel Corp., Radix Communications and Takenaka Corp.

Among the conglomerates, San Miguel Corp., Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage firm, emerged as the leader in terms of revenues in 2004, the report said.

The Top 5,000 Corporations 2005 edition released this week showed that San Miguel registered P176 billion in revenues in 2004.

In second place was Gokongwei-led JG Summit Holdings Inc. which posted P64.6 billion in revenues. Ranked third was SM Investments Inc. of mall tycoon Henry Sy, with revenues of P44.5 billion.

Next were Ayala Corp., P43.7 billion; Equitable PCI Bank, P24.15 billion; Lopez-owned Benpres Holdings

Corp.; P21.7 billion; RFM Corp. of the Concepcion family, P6.2 billion; Metro Pacific Corp., P4.7 billion; and A. Soriano Corp., P2.8 billion.

The SEC with CIBI Information Inc. ranked the country's 5,000 companies based on audited financial statements for fiscal year ending June 30, 2004 to March 31, 2005.

Conglomerates are ranked separately from their member companies.

In terms of gross sales in 2004, TI Philippines Inc., an affiliate of Texas Instruments, kept its hold over the number one spot with gross sales of P158.6 billion in 2004.

Power distributor Manila Electric Co. climbed to second place with total sales at P148.3 billion. Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. marched to third place with P126.9 billion.

## Cocktales

**From page B3**

Lopez Alejandro, had filed four cases at the Court of Appeals against four McKinley property owners who had sneaked past the Forbes Park RTC watch. The lifting of restrictions would have allowed the McKinley property owners—numbering from 36 to as high as 54, depending on who is counting—to convert their sprawling residences into boutiques and low-traffic shops, offices and even nursery schools, just what their Paseo de Roxas counterparts in Urdaneta Village have done.

Because of the deed-and-height restrictions and the worsening traffic, property prices in the McKinley corridor have languished in the P30,000 per-square-meter level, against the average asking of P40,000 per sqm inside Forbes.

### Mariana resistance

OVER at Quezon City's New Manila district, the Mariana Neighborhood Association is resisting a City Hall-inspired move to rename the Guilmore-Granada Road after a recently departed resident, Supreme Court Justice Cecilia Muñoz Pama.

The late justice's son, Tadeo Palma, who happens to be the secretary to Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, is apparently spearheading the name change from within to remove the "colonial" overhang on the disputed street. Following the young Palma's logic, the country should therefore discard the Spanish king-derived "Philippines" for a more nationalistic nomenclature, said Mariana Neighborhood chair Mario Jalandoni.

If Palma had his way, what would prevent the descendants of the late President Manuel L. Quezon, Vice Presidents Emmanuel Pelaez and Teofisto Guingona, Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. and similar famous residents from seeking similar street name changes? Jalandoni asked.

## Bartolome bounces back

**THE FIRST** chair/president of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, Arsenio Bartolome III, has been resurrected and named

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION  
BRANCH 16  
ROXAS CITY

Land Reg. Case No. N-57-05 LRA Record No. M-77484

**NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING**

To the Hon. Solicitor General, Office of the Solicitor General  
134 Amroto St., Legaspi Village, Iloilo City, the Director, National  
Agrarian Bureau, Escalante, Manila, the Regional Executive  
Director, Region VI-DENR, Iloilo City, the Hon. Secretary  
Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port  
Area, Manila, the Director, Bureau of Mines, Pogo Rd. St. Malabo  
the Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquacultural Resources, P.O.  
Box 623, both in Manila, the Hon. Secretary Department of  
Agriculture, PIA Bldg. Giljared Road Calapan the Director  
Forest Management Bureau, Ayas Avenue, Davao, both in  
Quezon City, Metro Manila, the Provincial Governor, the Provincial  
Prosecutor, the General Services Officer, the Provincial Engineer,  
the Public Works and Highways District Engineer, the GENR  
Officer, GENRO, Local Management Sector, Atty to Roxas City  
Cepiz, the Mayor, Mayor, Municipal Council, Insan, Cepiz,  
Faltiza Dots, Barangay Probacion, Insan, Cepiz, Municipal  
Government of Insan, Cepiz AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY  
CONCERN

An application having been filed in the above entitled case by  
HERMOGENES JIMENEZ, undersigned PRISCILLA M. ZARCO  
married to Carlos Zarco, represented by Atty. BENIGNO JULIA  
NAGAYO, married to Atty. BENIGNO JULIA NAGAYO  
married to Juan Adelaida R. Nagayo, RIZALTA NAGAYO  
married to Juan Abteygar, represented by Benigno Nagayo, of  
Barangay Probacion Insan, Cepiz, assisted by Atty. Antonio  
A. Sieran McKinley St. Roxas City praying for reintegration and  
confirmation of the title to the following described land:

A parcel of land (P.N. of the Land Pub. 00-001580), situated in  
the Barangay of Probacion, Municipality of Insan, Province of  
Capiz, Island of Panay, bounded on the SWW along line 1-2 by lot  
128, along plot 2 by lot 120, both of Insan Caudero, on the NW  
along line 3-2, properly claimed by Faltiza Carlos, on the NE along  
line 3-4 by Insan Probacion (20 00 m. wide), on the SE, along line 4-2  
claimed by the Municipal Government of Insan, on the SW, along  
line 5-1 by Calle Washington & Calle Alarcon, belonging to a good  
map, the Municipality of Insan, S. 03 deg. 05 min. 00.34 m. from B.L.M.  
No. 2 Insan Caud. 22A.

Insan N 37 deg. 44'W	30.83 m. to plot 2;
Insan N 49 deg. 28'E	10.88 m. to plot 3;
Insan S 45 deg. 34'E	43.62 m. to plot 4;
Insan S 51 deg. 25'W	15.75 m. to point 5;
Insan N 42 deg. 25'W	12.14 m. to point of

beginning, containing an area of FIVE HUNDRED NINETY ONE  
(591) SQUARE METERS, more or less, and the same are indicated on  
the plan and are marked on the ground by S. pyl. cone, more  
15 x 40 cm. bearing, iron, surveyed by Engineer Alena C. De  
Marta on August 22nd, 2004 and was approved on August 29, 2005

You are hereby served this notice to appear before this Court  
at its session to be held at the Regional Trial Court, Branch 16,  
Roxas City, Capiz, Philippines on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2008 at  
8:30 o'clock in the morning, then appear in person or present such  
competent legal counsel to said land or any part thereof, and to  
submit evidence in support of such claim and unless you appear  
in said court at same time and place aforesaid, your default will be  
recorded and the title to the land will be adjudicated and  
determined in accordance with law and the evidence before the  
court and thereafter you will forever be barred from claiming said  
property for petition for any decree intended.

Witness: the HON. DELANO F. VILLARUZ, Judge of said  
Court, the 12th day of September, 2005.

Issued at Quezon City, Philippines, this 15th day of January  
2006.

ATTEST:

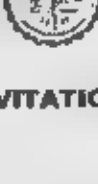
(Sgd.) BENEDICTO B. B. ULEP  
Acting Secretary

(Sgd.) SALVADOR L. ORTEL  
Chief, Document Division

**CERTIFIED TRUE COPY**

(Sgd.) GLORETA P. LACABARRA  
Chief, Publication of Notices Section

(PDP-March 18, 2006)

  
Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**Cagayan Valley Medical Center**  
Regional Tertiary, Teaching and Training Hospital  
Carig, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan  
Tel. No. 844-1410 or 1810

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**  
Republic of the Philippines  
Cagayan Valley Medical Center  
**Delivery & Supply of Drugs and Medicines**

The Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC), through the GOP and Hospital Income Intends to apply the sum of forty seven (47) million being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Delivery & Supply of Drugs and Medicines. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Delivery and Supply of Drugs and Medicines. Delivery of the GOODS is required by the second quarter of 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass-fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9154 (R.A. 9154), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedures.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00AM to 6:00PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of two thousand pesos (P2,000.00). This method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.

The Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 16, 2006, 9:00AM at the Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) Conference Hall.

Bid and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below at or before March 23, 2006, 9:00 AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on March 28, 2006, 9:00 AM at the CVMC Conference Hall. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

Issuance of Bid Documents will be from March 20 to 24, 2006.

The Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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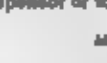

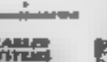


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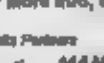

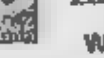

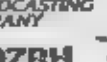
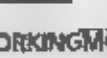
**March 28, 2006 (Tuesday)**  
**Unleashing the Power of Passion in Work and Life**  
**TITA DATU PUANGCO, President, Ancilla Enterprises Development Consulting, Inc.**  
 Passion is what gives shape and substance to our dreams in life and at work. We all can wield the power of passion to help us achieve our goals at work and in life. How do we unleash this power? Ms. Puangco will show us how we can tap into our innermost strengths to elicit passion into our lives. In so doing, we are able to live up to our fullest potential as individuals.


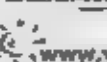
**March 29, 2006 (Wednesday)**  
**Mastering Effective Face-to-Face Communication at Work**  
**JOSEFINA O. SANTAMARIA, President, Career Systems, Inc.**  
 As e-mail, instant messaging and other electronic means of communication become common at work, the opportunities afforded by face-to-face communication have never been more important. This session will show you how to speak directly and confidently, assert yourself in uncomfortable situations, and offer constructive criticism. Learn also how to use the speaking word more effectively, influence listeners, convey confidence with body language and avoid misunderstanding.

**March 30, 2006 (Thursday)**  
**Managing Differences 360 Degrees**  
**ERNIE O. CECILIA, President, EG Business Solutions and Career Center**  
 There will always be differences in personalities, ideas, perceptions and in many other areas among people. Working in organizations means that one has to work well with others. This session will give you a guide to managing differences with people from all levels in the organization such as your bosses, subordinates, colleagues and other people who support your company like suppliers, customers and other stakeholders. This skill may be the thin line which divides the survivors and the casualties in the organization.

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# BUSINESS

## UA&P ASSESSMENT

# RP growth not fast enough

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY IS NOT growing fast enough to reduce poverty.

This was the assessment made by the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P), which said the government should exert extra effort, such as increasing its spending on infrastructure, for economic growth to benefit the poor.

UA&P economist Bernardo Villegas said in a briefing yesterday that the Philippine economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, had to

grow between 7 and 9 percent to make the poor feel the impact of what the government claims to be an improving economy.

The government had reported that the Philippine economy grew by 5.1 percent last year.

"You need a bigger margin so that there will be a trickle-down effect to the grassroots. You need more revenues that will go directly to poverty eradication," Villegas said.

The Arroyo administration also credits itself with the strengthening

of the peso and improved outlook by credit rating agencies.

Villegas, however, said these developments were something the poor could not appreciate because they do not feel their impact.

According to a report by the Asian Development Bank last year, the number of poor Filipino families rose to 10 percent from 1997 to 2000.

The ADB study said poverty incidence in the Philippines stood at 45.4 percent in 2000, representing 6.9 million families.

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## ROUND-UP

### DoCoMo buys into PLDT

JAPANESE FIRM NTT DOCOMO INC. HAS OFFICIALLY acquired a seat on the board of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) paving the way for greater technological cooperation between the two telecommunications giants.

NTT DoCoMo bought its stake from its sister firm NTT Communications Inc., which held 14 percent of PLDT's total outstanding shares before the transaction.

Earlier, PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said the company hoped to leverage NTT DoCoMo's expertise in third-generation (3G) mobile telecommunications technology for its own foray into 3G services.

PLDT is counting on 3G services to augment—and eventually supplant—its existing wireless communications services, which market watchers believe is close to exhausting its potential in the local market.

PLDT spokesperson Ramon Isberto confirmed the completion of the transaction.

"This is the execution of the agreement announced earlier," he said, referring to the memorandum of agreement that was sealed between both parties earlier this year.

The transfer of shares was made through a block sale of 12.63 million PLDT shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange on Thursday morning, executed at an average price of P1,824.86 apiece.

The transaction failed to excite the market, however, as PLDT stocks ended the trading session lower by P15 at P1,815 per share. A total of P248.3 million worth of the company's stock changed hands.

Daxim L. Lucas

### Aberdeen buys 9.6% of ALI

SINGAPORE-BASED fund manager Aberdeen Asset Management Asia Ltd. has acquired 9.6 percent of property giant Ayala Land Inc. (ALI). Aberdeen director Low Hon-Yu told the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) yesterday.

Aberdeen bought ALI shares at between P9.98 and P11.17 a share. ALI closed at P10.50 yesterday.

Aside from ALI, Aberdeen also owns 5.4 percent of ALI's 47 percent owned property unit, Cabu Holdings Inc.

Aberdeen Asset Management Asia Ltd. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Aberdeen Asset Management PLC.

The firm manages funds from institutions, other asset managers, government and related bodies, as well as retail investors in the Asia Pacific region.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

### Philip Morris sees more sales

CIGARETTE manufacturer Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. anticipates a 34 percent growth in sales this year despite the limited supply of quality tobacco and the shrinking market.

Philip Morris Philippines managing director Chris Nelson said in an interview that the company may sell about 32 to 34 billion sticks of cigarettes this year in the local and international markets, from 24 billion sticks in 2005.

He said the sales growth would rely on the expansion of the marketing force and the strengthening of the distribution network in the provinces.

Moreover, Philip Morris Philippines will continuously export manufactured cigarettes to Thailand and semi-processed tobacco leaves to Korea.

The company is also exporting Isabela tobacco leaves to other affiliates, such as Philip Morris Holland and Russia.

Philip Morris Philippines Inc., the local manufacturer and seller of brands Marlboro, Philip Morris, L&M, Stork, Miller and Bowring Gold, corners a fourth of the P120-billion local cigarette market.

Christine A. Gaylican

### IT firm to spend P150M

TOTAL Information Management (T.M) Corp., a 20-year-old information technology solutions provider, is spending more than P150 million for new technology-related ventures this year.

In a press briefing, TIM Corp. president Jose Mari Antez said possible growth areas include the printing services industry and outsourcing.

TIM Corp. has formed a new company Versaprint, to handle colored printing jobs.

T.M Corp. and its partners are investing \$3 million to \$4 million in this firm.

In terms of outsourcing services, TIM Corp. will offer remote desktop management or assistance for any personal computers connected to a network anywhere.

Established in 1985, initially as a supplier of refurbished IBM mainframes and other hardware, T.M Corp. has grown into a technology services company that provides a full range of solutions for the IT needs of many companies.

It posted sales of P600 million last year, which the company hopes to raise by 25 percent this year.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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# BUSINESSFriday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

## All work, no play make stressed entrepreneurs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

**A**LL WORK AND very little play make stressed out entrepreneurs, but how sustainable are long holidays?

Ben Punongbayan, chair and chief executive of consultancy firm Punongbayan and Araullo, wonders at the results of the lat-

est International Business Owners Survey.

But he is sure of one thing—rising stress levels among entrepreneurs are like a double-edged sword—it could mean an economic downturn or a period of growth.

"Executives feel the stress whether economic activity is picking up or slowing down in their respective countries," Punongbayan says. "They feel the

pressure of generating business amid a slump as well as of having to cope with fast growing businesses and markets."

P&A is the local partner of Grant Thornton International, which conducted the 2006 IBOS conducted in the fourth quarter of 2005.

The poll covered 7,000 business leaders from 30 economies in Asia, North America, Europe, Africa and Australia/Oceania.

Findings showed that business owners in the region took the shortest holidays on the average and also reported the greatest increases in stress levels.

Filipino entrepreneurs are the third most-stressed among their peers worldwide after those from Taiwan and China.

On a global average, 57 percent reported increased stress levels compared to 39 percent a year ago.

Filipino respondents said 76 percent of them were more stressed in the past year compared to just about 53 percent recorded in the past poll.

The top 10 economies that reported greater stress levels were mostly Asian, but includes Botswana, South Africa and Greece.

For the second straight year, Taiwanese business owners suffered the worst, with 89 percent

reporting an increase in stress. Those from China came second at 87 percent.

Among those polled, the least agitated were business owners from Sweden with only 24 percent complaining.

European entrepreneurs were relatively relaxed with those from Italy, Spain, France, the United Kingdom and the The Netherlands reporting an increase of

ALL WORK/B2-2



UNILEVER's Patricia Cordero, Gilbert Simpaio, Noel Lorenzana and Anna Fernandez

### Hygiene is big business in RP

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

POVERTY LEVELS IN THE Philippines may be high but cleanliness levels are higher compared with other countries.

For starters, most Filipinos, rich or poor, take a bath at least once a day, unlike some of their counterparts in the Western countries who do not deem it necessary to wash daily.

Second, toothpaste penetration or the percentage of Filipinos who brush their teeth is at a high 99 percent. And Filipinos, even the poor, do not mind paying a higher price for their toothpaste.

This is the observation of Noel C. Lorenzana, managing director for home and personal care of Unilever, makers of Sunsilk, Surf, Camay and CloseUp among others.

"Filipinos go for the premium brands (for toothpaste) even if cheaper ones are available. The poor give premium to brand quality (which they as-

sociate with the known brands)," notes Lorenzana.

The top three brands in the country are Colgate, CloseUp and Hapee toothpaste.

Lorenzana admits CloseUp is still in the No. 2 spot but points out it has already made great strides in grabbing market share from the leader.

He says the toothpaste market is a big enough market in the Philippines and one does not have to be in the No. 1 spot to make the profits. The toothpaste market is estimated at P5 billion a year. This is the same amount Filipinos spend for body soap.

When CloseUp was introduced in the US in 1972, it focused on the youth who wants to be different. As Lorenzana points out, it was for the young kids who did not want to use their parents' toothpaste.

It was introduced in the Philippine market in 1974 and did it via CloseUp couples.

HYGIENE/B2-2

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# Two Chinese who brought vases to Baguio



WAN JUN, proprietor of a small outlet for genuine Chinese porcelain imported from Jingdezhen province. The shop at the Cooyasan Hotel is often overlooked by tourists.

By Gobleth Moulk  
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE COUNTRY'S summer destination celebrated the 11th Panagbenga or Baguio Flower Festival but what are flowers without beautiful vases, pots and jars to hold them?

Even if roses, stargazers or daisies have withered and died, the vessels that hold them could span a dynasty—if the Chinese were to believe—especially if these are made of porcelain from the ancient city of Jingdezhen in China, the ceramic capital of the world.

Some enterprising young Chinese had this in mind when they hauled more than 200 pieces of porcelain vases, pots and jars from their backyard in Jingdezhen City and brought them to Baguio to see if Filipinos here would appreciate their products.

They set up shop at the Cooyasan Plaza on Naguilian Road. The vases are priced between P50 and P120,000.

"Touch it, tap it, lightly beat and it sounds like a bell. These are made of hardworking hands from our province that is famous in pottery and ceramic industry," said Wan Jun, 33, through an interpreter.

Wan and his partner, Xie Dao, 23, say they both grew up in Jingdezhen where their ancestors began to produce ceramics as early as 1,800 years ago in the Eastern Han Dynasty.

They both cannot speak and understand English so they hired Myrna Bayang, a Baguio resident who speaks fluent Mandarin to talk to the customers.

Bayang, who worked in Taiwan for 10 years, says Jingdezhen is synonymous to Chinese porcelain.

Aware that pirated products made in China are rampant everywhere, Wan and Xie proudly displayed the certificates issued by the Chinese government to prove that the designs were made by legitimate artists from Jingdezhen.

The most prized collector's

item is a set of jars painted by a Chinese ceramic artist Li Bo Feng. Each jar costs between P45,000 and P60,000.

"You will have an idea of our Chinese history and culture through our products," Wan said.

Xie said they have vases with an inscription of a poem about China's ancient queen.

The cheapest vase and porcelain mugs cost P50 while a set of chopsticks in various hues of red, white and blue sells for P1,000.

Wan said small jars are the most sought items among Benguet's wine makers and producers. Benguet produces strawberry and rice wine (tapuey) and some wine makers use porcelain jars and earthen jars from the Ilocos for their products.

Buddhists, according to Bayang, visit their shop and appreciate lampshades (the most expensive of which sells for P15,700) where the images of Buddha are engraved.

Wan and Xie assured they have other items that have no religious

symbols such as embroidered flowers. There is also a frame with a tiger design but the fur used came from different animals.

Wan and Xie claim they were selling all their products half the original price because they wanted to return to China soon.

"We miss our families in China already. But we don't want to bring home these heavy stuff with us because we can no longer afford to pay taxes at the Bureau of Customs," Wan said.

They have been doing business in the city for almost six months now.

"Offering a 50 percent discount is a gift we can give to Filipinos who are the friendliest people we have met in Asia. They like our products and they're very appreciative of us although we can't speak English," they said.

Asked how they described their relationship with Filipinos, Wan summed it up in one Filipino word he knows: "Maganda (Beautiful)."

## All work, no play ...

From page B2-1

stress levels between 40 percent and 44 percent.

The Americans said they suffered 45 percent more last year than in the previous year.

Also, the poll revealed that a direct correlation between stress and the amount of holiday, excluding public holidays, taken by executives around the world.

Majority of business leaders in East Asia suffered from a high stress increase in 2005, possibly as a result of the poor holiday allowance, results showed.

On average, Filipino business owners took only 12 days off last year, compared to executives from European countries who took an average of 22 days of vacation.

Those who took the most days of vacation were those in France with 27 days while those in Thailand took the least at four days.

For P&A managing partners

Greg Navarro, these findings point to interesting points that need looking in to.

"(Are) executives less stressed because they take more vacations, or do they take more vacations because they feel less stressed?" Navarro muses.

"Long holidays mean less stress for business owners in Europe, which is well and good," he adds. "But you wonder how sustainable this practice is in the long run, especially with East Asian countries quickly catching up with their Western counterparts."

Other factors that contributed to stress in some countries included business travel and fears over job security.

Business owners from India topped the list of complainers against traveling with 41 percent of them saying it was "most stressful" while a fifth of those from the Philippines, Botswana and China said business trips were "very or extremely stressful."

Those most worried about job security were from Japan and Thailand with 49 percent of respondents from the two countries said it was a "high" or "extreme" factor. Trailing them were the Indians and the Turks, with 48 percent and 42 percent.

The least stressed about job security were those from Sweden (7 percent), The Netherlands, United Kingdom and Singapore (9 percent).

How do your stress levels compare now to one year ago? (% increased)

Taiwan	89
Mainland China	87
Philippines	76
Botswana	74
Hong Kong	69
Singapore	67
Malaysia	65
South Africa	65
Greece	63
Thailand	62
Japan	60
Russia	60
Mexico	58
Turkey	58
India	57
Global average (inc. Mainland China)	57
Global average (exc. Mainland China)	51
Germany	50
Luxembourg	49
Argentina	48
Australia	48
Canada	48
Ireland	46
New Zealand	46
Poland	46
US	45
Netherlands	43
UK	43
France	42
Spain	42
Italy	40
Sweden	24

Source: Grant Thornton 2006 International Business Owners Survey  
Figures are the percentage of respondents indicating that their stress levels have increased or increased significantly over the past year.

## Hygiene ...

From page B2-1

Unilever, then Philippine Refining Co., used good-looking teenagers in their commercials. Many of these became popular actors and actresses like Lloyd Samartino, Gabby Concepcion, Richard Gomez, Dawn Zulueta, Tonton Gutierrez.

"We weaved our way into the pop culture," says Lorenzana.

In 2004, the marketing team wanted to come up with a big Valentine's event for CloseUp Kissing, which is associated with love, became the focal point and a kissing event called Lovapalooza was born.

In 2004, the event landed the Guinness Book of World Records when 5,300 couples smooched for at least 10 seconds on Valentine's Day at Bay Walk along Roxas Boulevard, breaking Chile's record of 4,445 couples.

The number of couples who registered in 2005 dropped to 1,500 and this year it registered about 2,000. However, organizers said some 800,000 participated in the event which was held simultaneously in other parts of the country like Manila, Davao and Cebu. More than half of this or 500,000 were in Manila.

Unilever is mum about the cost of mounting the Lovapalooza event. But Annamaria H. Fernandez, brand manager for CloseUp, says Lovapalooza has an impact on sales just before and after the event.

The bulk of the expense went into security, entertainers and some giveaways.

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### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID No. CMIPP-CM-01-06

The NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION Casecanan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project, Irrigation Component CILSU Compound, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, invites all interested SUPPLIERS/DEALERS to submit application for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of Various Construction Materials with an approved budget of One Million Eight Hundred Ninety One Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Pesos (P1,891,830.00).

Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Issuance of Bid Forms to interested parties shall be from March 03-15, 2006. A corresponding non-refundable cost of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) shall be charged for the bid documents payable to the collecting/disbursing officer of the Project before issuance of bid forms.

Sealed Bids/Quotations in Duplicate Forms accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of CASH, CERTIFIED CHECK, CASHIER'S CHECK ONLY and equivalent to one percent (1%) of the total approved budget (ABC) shall be dropped in the Bid Box for Goods/Supplies and Services located at the Office of the Project Manager not later than 12:00NN of March 16, 2006 and will be publicly opened at exactly 1:00PM of the same date at NIA-CMIPP Conference Hall.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" shall govern this procurement schedule.

Only prospective bidders registered with the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), Procurement Services of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) are qualified to participate in the Bidding.

The NIA-CMIPP/BAC reserves the right to reject any or all such bids/quotations, waive any defect found therein and to accept the offer which is not beneficial to the government. The decision of the BAC in the evaluation of bids/quotations is final.

All inquiries pertaining to this invitation to bid may be directed to the above-mentioned Office.

(Sgd) SERAFIN A. PALTENG  
Project Manager

(PDI March 3 & 10, 2006)



Republic of the Philippines  
Office of the President  
PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY  
NIA Northside Road, National Government Center  
Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City

### ANNOUNCEMENT

- The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), a government agency under the Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines and created pursuant to Republic Act No. 9165 otherwise known as the "Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002" is now accepting applications to fill up one hundred (100) new positions for PDEA Drug Enforcement Officers.
- The following are the vacant positions, together with the corresponding salary grade, number of slots, preferred education, and experience:

Position Title	Salary Grade	Nr of Slots	Preferred Education	Experience
Investigation Agent III	22	6	Bachelor's Degree Relevant to the Job (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility) Preferably Lawyer/CPA	3 years of relevant experience and 16 hours of relevant training
Intelligence Officer IV	22	4	Bachelor's Degree (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility) (Preferably Lawyer/CPA)	3 years of relevant experience and 16 hours of relevant training
Intelligence Officer III	18	10	Bachelor's Degree (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility)	2 years of relevant experience and 8 hours of relevant training
Investigation Agent I	18	10	Bachelor's Degree Relevant to the Job (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility)	2 years of relevant experience and 8 hours of relevant training
Special Investigator II	16	10	Bachelor's Degree Relevant to the Job (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility)	1 year of relevant experience and 4 hours of relevant training
Intelligence Officer II	15	20	Bachelor's Degree (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility)	1 year relevant experience and 4 hours of relevant training
Intelligence Officer I	11	40	Bachelor's Degree (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility)	No experience and training required
TOTAL		100		

Interested applicants must possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Filipino Citizen;
  - At least 21 years of age and preferably below forty (40) years of age;
  - Height: Preferably 5'4" for male and 5' for female;
  - Must be physically and mentally fit;
  - Of proven integrity and honesty and without criminal and/or derogatory records;
  - Bachelor's degree holder and
  - Passed the CSC Professional Eligibility Examination or Bar/Board Examination.
- Interested applicants shall undergo the following phases of screening in order to qualify for the vacant positions:
- FIRST PHASE:** The applicants shall undergo the written entrance examination (which shall include general knowledge, comprehension, IQ and aptitude test) to be administered by the PDEA on March 12, 2006 at any of the following testing centers and the results thereof shall be published a week later in newspapers of major circulation:
    - Ramon Magsaysay High School, Quezon City for Metro Manila and Luzon
    - Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) Regional Training School 7 in Cebu City for Visayas
    - University of Mindanao, Davao City for Mindanao
  - SECOND PHASE:** Those who passed the written entrance examination shall undergo the neuro-psychiatric (NP) examination and background investigation.
  - THIRD PHASE:** Applicants who successfully passed the neuro-psychiatric examination and background investigation shall undergo physical fitness, medical, laboratory, and drug examinations.
  - FOURTH PHASE:** Those who successfully passed the previous phases shall undergo problem solving, essay-type and structured employment interview.
  - FIFTH PHASE:** The PDEA Recruitment Committee shall select the best and brightest one hundred (100) applicants. It shall ensure that the results of every phase are published as soon as available, in the spirit of transparency.
- Upon selection and appointment, the appointees shall undergo the six (6)-month basic training in the PDEA Academy, Camp Castañeda, Silang, Cavite.
  - Priority shall be given to applicants who are presently employed or utilized by the PDEA.
  - Personnel of the PNP, AFP and other government agencies who wish to apply shall undergo the same screening process and basic training.
  - Application Forms are available at the PDEA Academy, PDEA Annex Building, NIA Northside Road, National Government Center, Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City and at all PDEA Regional Offices.
  - Please call Telephone Number 929-11-86 Local 178 for clarification and other related matters.

UBEC ANSELMO B. AVENIDO, JR.  
Deputy General, PDEA

(PDI March 8 & 10, 2006)

## INVITATION TO BID

The AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) invites interested parties to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties on cash or term basis (minimum 30% down payment and 16% interest rate per annum, maximum of 7 years to pay)

Item No.	Description	Location	Minimum Floor Price
06-1	259.7 sqm residential lot	No. 12 Rimas St. Proj. 2, Q. C.	P 2,428,195.00
06-2	4 residential lots 300 sqm each	Brgy. Pimienta, Umingan, Pangasinan	P 455,855.00
06-3	2 residential lots 500 sqm each	Brgy. Prado, Umingan, Pangasinan	P 243,600.00
06-4	House & Lot F/A 48 sqm L/A 198 sqm	L13, B15, AFP Village, San Mateo, Riza.	P 267,877.00
06-5	9,448 sqm industrial lot	Bulacan Agro Industrial Subdivision Calumpit, Bulacan	P 30,516,700.00
06-6	367 sqm residential lot	L12, B6, Sura De la Paz Subd. Sumulong Antipolo	P 892,500.00
06-7	241 sqm residential lot	L8, B11, Lopez Subdivision, Brgy. Tugbungan, Zamboanga City	P 20,485.00
06-8	House & Lot F/A 152 sqm L/A 208 sqm	L6, B32, Phase II Soldier's Hills Subd., Muntinlupa City	P 707,200.00
06-9	120 sqm residential lot	L4, B3 Kameha-meha St., Kingsville Subd., Antipolo	P 367,200.00
06-10	3,000 sqm residential lot 13,000 sqm agri lot	Brgy. Cajimos, Romblon, Romblon	P 1,538,310.00
06-11	House & Lot F/A 42 sqm L/A 120 sqm	L45 & 47, B4, Alpha Street Northmatrixville Subd., Caloocan	P 509,320.00
06-12	322 sqm residential lot	L70, B1-A Diamond Park Victoria Homes Muntinlupa City	P 547,400.00

Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents starting March 13, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 from the Office of the Head, Property Management, 3/F RSBS Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Q. C.

A Pre-bidding Conference is scheduled on March 23, 2006 at 10:00 AM, Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q. C.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives on March 28, 2006 at 10:00 AM at the Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q. C.

For further inquiries, you can call MS. LIZA HIZON or MR. DARWIN MANZANO at telephone numbers 9124718 or 9114071 local 249.

(PDI-March 10, 11 & 12, 2006)





DENNIS Balajadia with his team

## A very sunny venture

DENNIS BALAJADIA, CEO OF NATURE Laboratories, is a beach lover who got tired of using lotion sunblock. After using an imported spray sun protecting liquid, he got hooked and created his own.

"I'm always at the beach with my family and friends. One of my hobbies include scuba diving every month and sunblock is a must. After using an imported brand of clear-spray sunblock, I never want to go back to lotion. Lotion sunblock is messy, sticky and very hard to apply. Since clear spray sunblock is not available locally and is very expensive from abroad, I decided to make my own," relates Dennis who finished Applied Chemistry at the Ateneo de Manila University.

"I personally tested several prototypes of the product taking into consideration the sun protection factor, scent and overall appeal of the sunblock," he proudly adds.

Balajadia says "Beach Hut is produced by Cosmetic Specialist Inc. but all the ingredients that go into the sunblock are imported. Cosmetic Specialist is a spin-off

from a pharmaceutical company."

Cosmetic Specialist Inc. is a BFAD [Bureau of Food and Drug] approved plant in Bulacan where production is handled. Lloyd Laboratories, another pharmaceutical company, spearheaded the research and development side.

Beach Hut will be available in two sizes (75 ml and 180 ml) at a retail price of P220 and P390 respectively. Balajadia adds that for the summer, Beach Hut has committed to offer a 40-ml limited edition size with carabener. It will be sold in beach destinations such as Boracay, as well as select shopping malls in Metro Manila before summer arrives.

After launching on local soil, Nature Laboratories is set to bring Beach Hut to foreign shores, in particular, Asian countries, by the third quarter of 2006. Beach Hut is available in Boracay and in major retail outlets in Metro Manila, and key cities of the Philippines.

For information, call (02) 376-2283.

## BUSINESSFriday

### Perfume-making seminar on March 18

THESE DAYS, PERFUME AND COLOGNE ARE ideal items for souvenirs and gifts. Learn the technical know-how of perfume-making and earn extra cash.

In line with the government's objective to give livelihood for those who would like to earn extra income, the Golden Treasure Skills

Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on perfume-making at the Vermont Blooms Unlimited, No. 9 Anonas Rd., Proj. 3, Quezon City on March 18, Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials, costing. There will be a hands-on experi-

ence on how to make perfume spray, cologne spray, roll-on perfume, cream type perfume and the gel solid type. Participants will receive certificate of training right after the seminar. All the materials will be provided. For questions, call 952-29-34, 952-40-28, 951-29-66, 436-78-26 and 913-65-51.

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<p><b>DocuPrint 305</b> Work Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A3 / Tabloid</li> <li>• 30 ppm</li> <li>• True 1200 dpi</li> <li>• 64 MB RAM</li> <li>• 100,000 duty cycle/mo.</li> <li>• Built-in LAN</li> </ul> <p>SRP P 65,000 <b>P 59,995.</b></p>	<p><b>Phaser 7300</b> Professional Colour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A3 / Tabloid</li> <li>• 37 ppm Black/30 ppm Color</li> <li>• 2400 dpi</li> <li>• Adobe Post Script 3</li> <li>• 192 MB RAM</li> <li>• Auto-Duplex</li> <li>• 65,000 duty cycle/mo.</li> <li>• Built-in LAN</li> </ul> <p>SRP P195,000 <b>P189,995.</b></p>	<p><b>Phaser 5500</b> Enterprise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-volume</li> <li>• 50 ppm</li> <li>• True 1200 dpi</li> <li>• Adobe Post Script 3</li> <li>• 128 MB RAM</li> <li>• 330,000 duty cycle/mo.</li> <li>• Built-in LAN</li> </ul> <p><b>P229,995.</b></p>	<p><b>Phaser 7750</b> "King of Color"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A3 / Tabloid / Banner</li> <li>• 34 ppm</li> <li>• True 1200 dpi</li> <li>• Adobe Post Script 3</li> <li>• 256 MB RAM</li> <li>• 50,000 duty cycle/mo.</li> <li>• Network ready</li> </ul> <p><b>P399,995.</b></p>

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**P&G DONATES TO LEYTE.** Procter & Gamble Phils. recently donated P1 million to the Philippine National Red Cross for the benefit of landslide victims in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte. In photo are Kitty Li of P&G's Asia Pte Ltd., P&G Phils. president and GM Johnip G. Cua, PNRC chair Sen. Richard Gordon, Ed Imperial and Gwendolyn Pang.

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# BUSINESSFriday

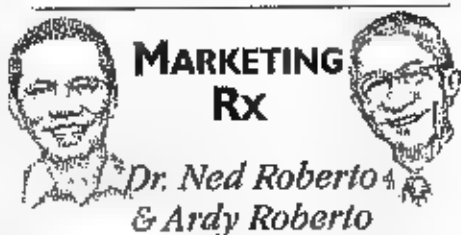
## 'How should companies position their brands in the market?' —more branding advice from Al Ries

HERE'S MORE BRAND AND MARKETING advice from our guest columnist, best-selling marketing author and brand strategist—Al Ries.

**Q:** What is your view of the state of marketing and branding among professional service providers, particularly consultants?

**Al Ries:** I think that most professional service providers are good at selling, but not at branding. In other words, they do a very good job in rounding up prospects and making presentations to sell their services. On the other hand, they do a lousy job of branding.

To build a brand, you have to stand for something in the mind. BMW stands for "driv-



ing," Volvo stands for "safety," Mercedes-Benz stands for "prestige."

But what does the average professional service firm stand for? Nothing. Take the accounting firms, what's the difference between PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG, and Ernst &

The best, most powerful global brands are almost always based on new categories

Young? I don't know and I'll bet most of their prospects have no idea either. They just hire the accounting firm that puts the best team on their accounts.

**Q:** In today's world, there are many different brand, product and marketing strategies. In this frame, how should companies position their brands in the market?

**Al Ries:** Think categories, not brands. The most successful brands are those that are first in new categories. Like Kleenex in tissue. Tide in detergents. Coca-Cola in cola. IBM in main-frame computers. Microsoft in personal computer operating systems. Intel in microprocessors. Dell in selling personal computers direct

to businesses.

Even if you are not the actual first brand in a category, there's always a way to divide the category in order to be first in something. BMW was first in "driving machines." Volvo was first in "safe cars." Rolex was first in "high priced watches." Swatch was first in "fashion watches."

**Q:** How can companies launch brands that allow them to serve existing clients at the same time as capturing new ones?

**Al Ries:** Instead of thinking of ways to serve and maintain clients or customers, enterprises that launch new brands should think of trying to create new categories. The best, most powerful global brands are almost always based on new categories. The Body Shop was the first cosmetics shop selling "natural" cosmetics. Volvo was the first automobile to focus on "safety" as its primary benefit. Red Bull was the first "energy drink."

**Q:** How much of an effective B2B campaign is based on the specific strengths of a product versus how much is it based on its advertising/marketing inventiveness?

**Al Ries:** What you need to do is to combine both. In other words, you want to find a product or service "strength" that can be developed into a powerful marketing program. One without the other is just not going to work. Some product strengths just won't work because somebody else "owns" the strength. Can you build a safer car than a Volvo? Probably. Is this a good product strategy? No. Because Volvo owns "safety" in the mind of the prospect.

**Q:** In what way are multinational brands being affected by anti-globalization and anti-American feelings?

**Al Ries:** In the short term, there will be some effect, but in the long term, the anti-globalization and anti-American feelings will not seriously hurt American brands.

It's strange. You tend to hate your enemies and love your friends, but you tend to respect your enemies and disrespect your friends.

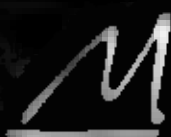
We lived in a community outside of New York City that was heavily Jewish. What was one of the most popular cars in this community? The Mercedes-Benz. Did the Jewish people like the Germans? No, they didn't. Most of them hated the Germans. They just thought that the Germans made the best automobiles.

Our guest columnist, Al Ries, is one of the best known marketing strategists and authors in the world. He will be here in Manila on June 23 to do a one-day brand marketing conference sponsored by The INQUIRER Executive Seminar Series. MarketingRx is hosting Al Ries and his marketing advice column every other week until June. If you have any questions for us or for Al Ries send them to us at [MarketingRx@pdiD-SL.net](mailto:MarketingRx@pdiD-SL.net) or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

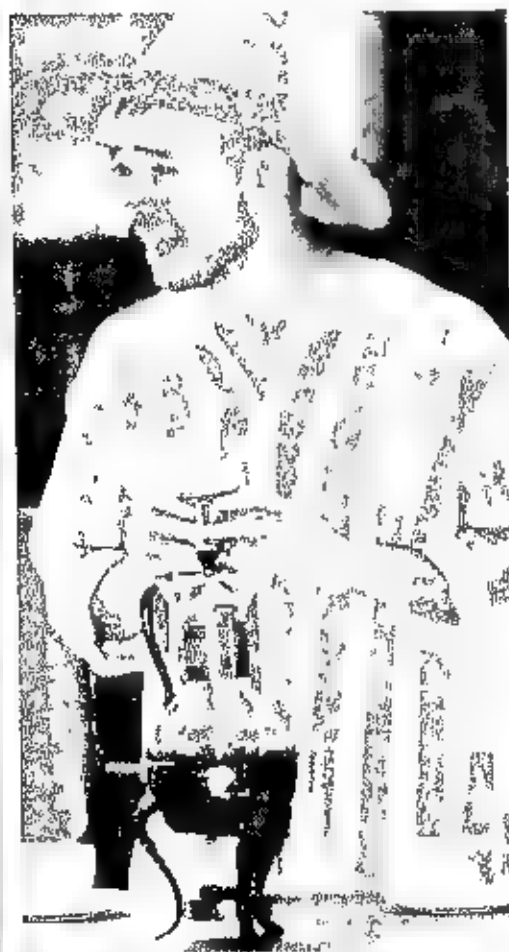
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A MODERNIZED zarzuela highlights the media launch of the new coffee.

## Firm offers new coffee variant

NESTLE PHILIPPINES INC. RECENTLY INTRODUCED Nescafé Classic First Pick, a limited edition soluble coffee made special by its unique taste and intense aroma.

First Pick is made from coffee cherries handpicked by Filipino farmers during the beginning of the harvest season.

"The Nescafé Classic First Pick takes inspiration from the 100,000 Filipino coffee farmers and the 300,000 people in the country that are in some way involved in the planting, harvesting or processing and trading of coffee whom Nestle works with throughout the years," explained Nestle Philippines Inc. chair and CEO Narda Nardok Shore.



BEACH fashion  
for a goddess /D1

# LIFESTYLE

For lifestyle inquiries, write to: [pr\\_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph) or call 334 (Smart) or 2207 (Globe)

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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## An iPod away from the coup

MY SON GOES THROUGH MUCH OF THE day with his iPod plugged to his ears, just like you perhaps. Today's kids wander around with ear plugs. They are tuned out of their surroundings and wired to their sounds. The podcast is their world.

I suspect the iPod, MP3 and the like were made just for a conspiratorial purpose: to shield young people from the mess we've made around them.

### LIFE- STYLED



Thelma Sioson  
San Juan

That thought crossed my mind as I watched the Marines' standoff on TV and glanced back at my son whose eyes were glued to the TV and ears plugged into his iPod. What an ironic juxtaposition of technologies—and of realities. He asked what was going on. I told him, and he had no comment.

He is an "Edsa 1 baby." I remember that day as the day when the soldiers advanced threateningly to our office, the then resurrected Manila Times, and the exact day I stopped breastfeeding.

Like many assiduous moms, I would go to work, store my milk in bottles and keep these bottles frozen in the office ref. That night the soldiers made an attempt to take over the Manila Times, my milk dried up due to stress. That was my son's biological link—if you could call it that—to Edsa.

Today he's 20 years old, has just graduated from college last month, and what kind of world did all our "Edsas" set up for him?

In their despair, many have been writing off our kids' future in their own country. I'm not one of them.

I don't think my kid would easily land a job, perhaps he would not as easily land a job as I did. Like many his age, he's open to odd jobs. Barely a month after graduation, he and his friends landed a part-time job of manning gaming stations and marketing video games—because they enjoy playing them anyway. But that's not long-term.

Since he's almost 6-ft tall and, in my biased view, rather good-looking, he can be a model perhaps. In case you haven't noticed, kids today aspire to be models or stars—quick buck. My son isn't hot about it, but he's open. Or perhaps, he tells me, he can go to his *lito* in California and do odd jobs while he's young.

I am not despairing for my "Edsa baby," not yet anyway. Even if the country is a mess, I am not about to tell my son that he has no future here. He has about as much chance to feel fulfilled here as he has elsewhere.

Here or anywhere, he just has to know honest, hard work—to be productive Christian gentlemen, that's my dream for my sons.

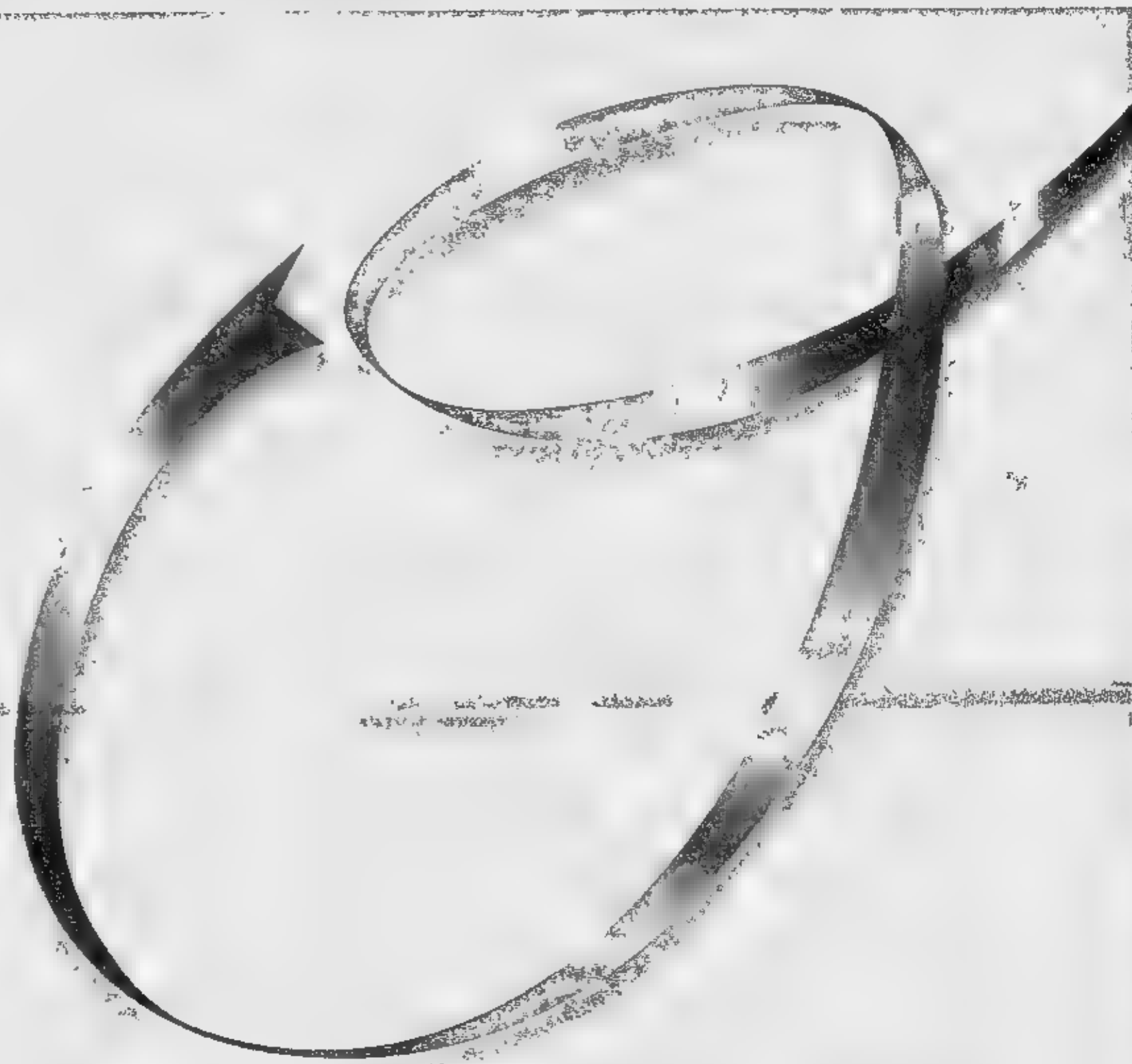
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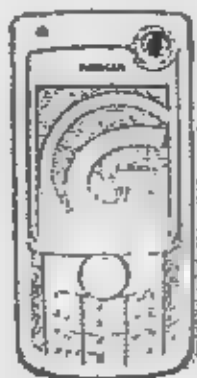
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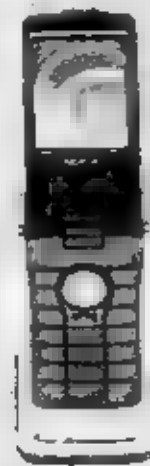
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## An iPod away from the coup

From page C1

I sometimes think that my mom's and dad's generation messed up this country really bad—I was convinced of this, especially in my student-activist days.

But then, looking back, I also realize that their generation fought and died in the War. They endured the Occupation and fought starvation. They've paid their dues, even if the country they handed down to us wasn't much. Now, is my generation messing up as well, leaving not much for our kids?

Honestly, you feel that way more and more, especially when you see the grime everywhere, literally and otherwise. But then you can also tell your son that many of your friends and classmates lost their lives fighting the dictatorship and gave up their affluent lives to live and fight with the masses. Your generation too has paid its dues, even if some of them are squandering yet again their chance at enlightened governance.

My point is, for every scoundrel, there is the equivalent of people working relentlessly to make this a decent place. The wave of migration doesn't give me anxiety attacks, because I know that one doesn't lose one's sense of home and childhood easily. Overseas Filipinos have had a way of giving back to their country, if they don't come back here themselves, you don't have to be in real-estate development to know that.

We just have to keep at it until we get this country right. This hard, honest, vigilant effort of salvaging a country should be good enough for our kids. Besides, their turn will come to clean up this mess. When it does we should have at least trained our sons and daughters not to run away from a good fight.

### Making a difference

Talk about people who try to make a difference even from their comfortable perch. How ironic that Pitoy Moreno's birthday is Feb. 25—ironic because Pitoy has always been a good friend of the Marcoses, who had to flee Malacañang on his birthday 20 years ago.

This year, on the eve of the 25th, as rallies broke out in Makati and Ortigas, friends of Pitoy gathered at the awesomely beautiful penthouse of foremost interior designer Gerry Contreras not only to celebrate his birthday but, more important, to introduce the recipients of the J. Moreno Scholarship Foundation this year.

Not known to many, Pitoy has been giving these annual grants for 25 years. Fifteen years ago, his good friend Imelda Cojuangco offered to share in giving the grants. That night Ms. Cojuangco showed up and it was nice to see how good and healthy she looked.

Apart from his penthouse, Gerry's glass-and-concrete house on the rooftop—standing cheek by jowl with Mandarin—was something else. But that's for another day.



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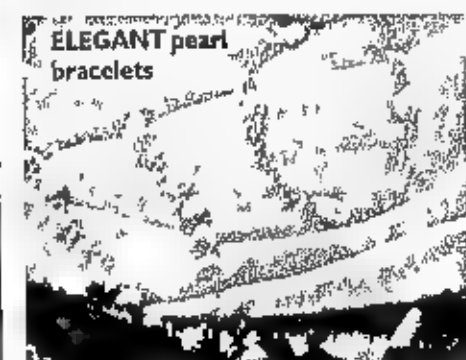
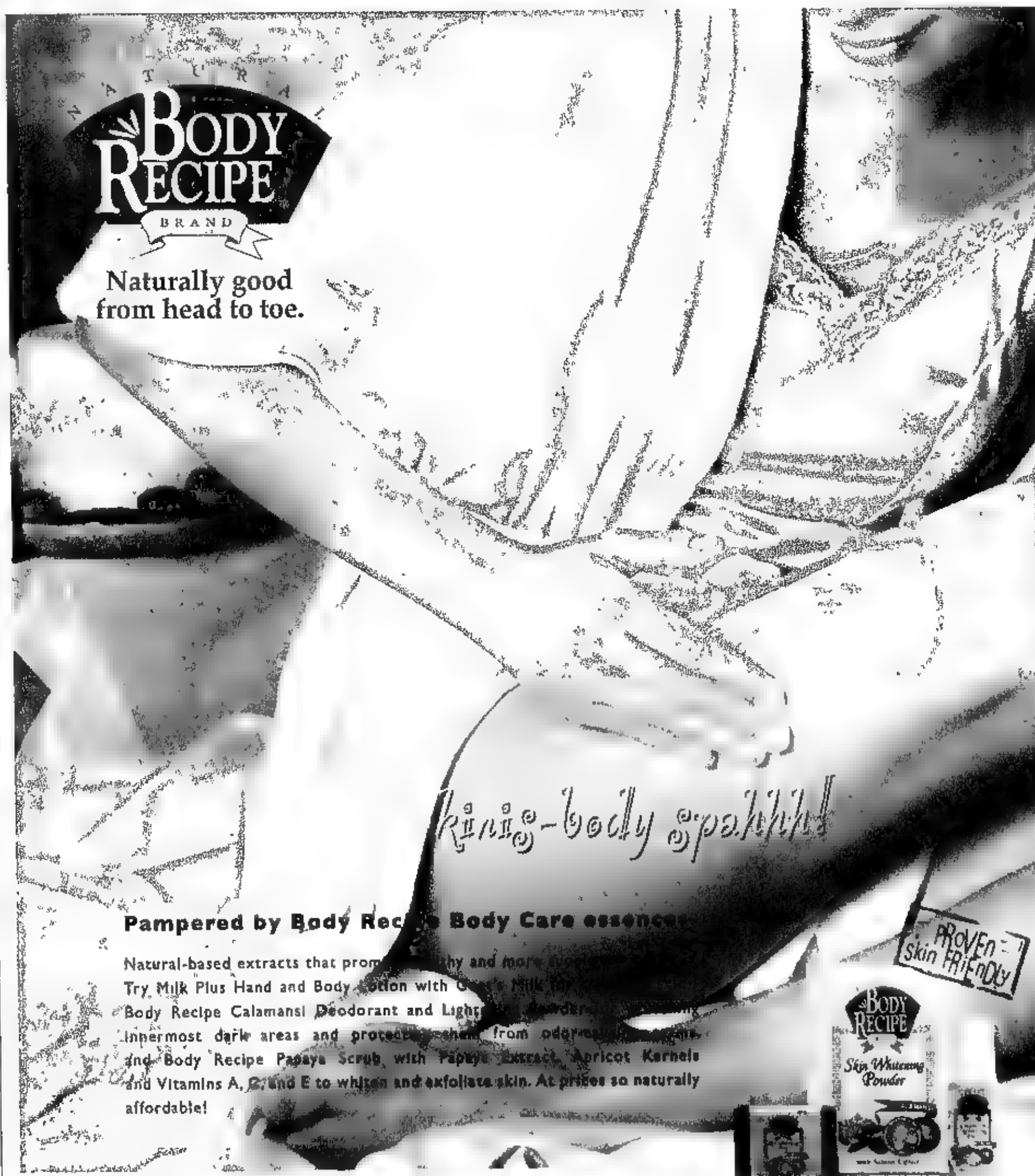
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You may also want to give the whole family tokens of this special occasion. Give them copies of graduation pictures in classic and elegant Mother of Pearl picture frames.

Michels sterling silver jewelry and gift items are exclusively available at its boutiques in Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center Makati, Green Hills Jewelry Centre, San Juan; and Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati. Michels is also available at Rustan's Department Store branch in Alabang Town Center, Robinsons Ermita, and Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City.

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Consistent with our vision of an Avalon and company, three enter to unite, achieve a better balanced, happy life, to a better life with a better fun, where the living experience enhances the lifestyle and fulfill the aspirations of its customers.

# Mandarin scholarships

## GOINGS ON

**GOINGS ON**

**WED EXHIBIT MM.LDC**  
in Antipio City will hold an exhibit, food tasting and tour for soon-to-wed couples and events organizers 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., March 11. Advanced reservation for the exhibit is recommended. Discounts and promos for onsite bookings will be offered. A free shuttle service will be available to and from Ortigas. Pick-up time is 9 a.m. in front of Mera co Post Office Building, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig, Ca. 6961016 or 6328111 local 394. E-mail: mmldc.marketinfo@meralco.com.ph or visit [www.mmldc.com](http://www.mmldc.com)

**JAZZ TIME.** Shangri-La Plaza presents at 6-7 p.m. jazz vocalist Mon David, today and crooner Enrique Marcos tomorrow, at the Grand Atrium. The mall's Coffee, Tea and Jazz Festival will begin with ribbon-cutting rites at 5-6 p.m. March 17, at the Grand Atrium. Activities include Ancient Japanese Tea Ceremony to be conducted by the Chado Urasenke Tankokai; Mana Association, barista demonstration by Coffee Beanery, Expresso product demo by Dome Café; bean to cup seminar by Starbucks, and seminar on tea, beauty and social graces by Oien L.M. Featured artists are Skarlet, March 17 Anya Santos, March 18: Isha, March 24, Johnny Alegre, March 25, and Wura, March 26. Call Shangri-La Plaza Marketing at 6337851/70 local 147.

**SEMINAR** The Philippine Society of Librarians and Information Specialists will hold "Cataloging and Indexing Update: An achievement workshop," March 13-15 at Securities and Exchange Commission on Bldg. 10/F Edsa Ortigas, Mandaluyong. Call 7241994, 5323687, 0919-5180126 and 0919-7727678

CORBAN Communications Inc. is offering a new series of Easy English seminars every Saturday and Sunday starting March 18, 2-5 p.m. Call 8426665, 8093050 or 0917-6297718.

**PROMO** Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa presents "Pambabayang Papremyo Araw-Araw." With every P300 worth of purchase from any Robinsons mall outlet, a customer gets a raffie coupon. Prizes for the daily raffie include washing machines, microwave ovens, color televisions on DVD players, VCD/mp3 cassette players. Promo runs until March 31. Robinsons mails a so ho id "March Summer Sale." March 18 and 19. Call 8371025

**WORKSHOP** A workshop on "Effective Oral Presentation" will be held 2-5 p.m., March 15-17 at the Orl gas Complex. Pasig. Cal. 8213583 or 0915-4315375.

**PERFORMANCE** Mary Kay (Philippines) Inc. will sponsor Ballet Philippines' "Tango Filipino/La Divina", March 17-18, at Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo, Cultural Center of the Philippines' main theater. MKP is an affiliate of Mary Kay Inc., a world leader in personal care and color cosmetics. Call 8596211 or visit [www.marykay.com.ph](http://www.marykay.com.ph)

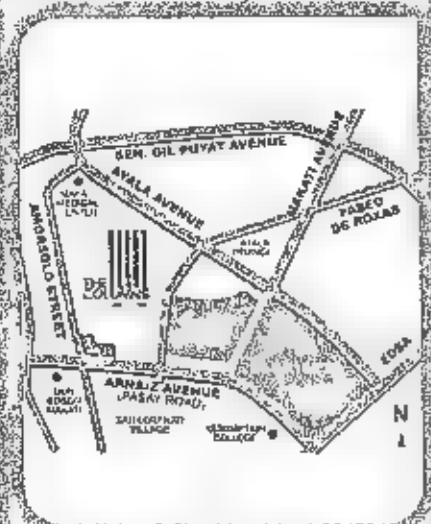
**JOB FAIR** The Cal Center Philippines 2006 Job Fair will be held 10 a.m.-5 p.m., March 18-19, at Expo Trade Hall Festival Supermall Aabang. Participating companies include Convergys Teletech, Apac and John Clements. Call 8253482/0804

**BAZAAR.** Rockwe. Vintage Bazaar s sel for  
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til you drop. Ca. 898.1.702

**CONFERENCE** Ayala Museum presents "The Jade Trail: Amazing New Discoveries from the Batanes Islands, Northern Philippines." March 18, 1 p.m., at Classrooms 1-2 of Ayala Museum. Call 7577117 to 21 loca 14.

**WORKSHOPS** Businessmaker Academy (BMA) offers three basic and advance Bead Art Classes using Swarovski components. Hands-on workshop series include bead jewelry April 7, bead sculpture and tiara making, March 10 and April 21, beaded bags and shirts, March 17 and April 28; balloon and candy arrangement, March 24 and May 5, and gift baskets and package design, March 31 and May 11. Call BMA at 667-4445/4645/3416 or visit [www.businessmaker-academy.com](http://www.businessmaker-academy.com)

**BAND TILT** Amateur bands with three to five members (male and female), 15 years old and above are invited to join The Brick Road's Retro Groove Band Competition. Repertoires must be songs from the 60s-'90s. Get an entry form at the Ad & Promo Department of Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Basement Level Phase III. Attach a photocopy of the members' birth certificates or any valid ID with birth date and 3R group photo. Grand finals will be at The Brick Road's 5th anniversary party on Apr. 29. Call 6815401 loc. 109.

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## You're a beach... goddess!

A dream getaway needs a dream wardrobe—sparkly, flowing beach frocks make it all come true

**I**N THE HEART OF NEARLY every woman in the urban jungle is a mermaid yearning to break free. She smells ocean spray and coconut oil in her dreams. She sings Ariel's "Last Reprise" in the shower. In the middle of a business meeting, she fantasizes about "The Great Sand & Sea Seduction"—her dress glittery with water diamonds, whimsical with sea-foam, lustrous like pearls.

### Mabuhay!



Jenni  
Epperson

Enter "beach frocks"—long, flowing chiffon gowns swaying in the wind; cocktail dresses of feathers, ruffles and other frills that flutter in the breeze as one moves. Very sexy!

Parfetched, you could be saying? But think about it: You slave away—in the gym, at the office—to slip into your designer maillot, your skimpy bikini, and catch that flight to your Dream Getaway. Your dream vacation needs—no, deserves—a dream wardrobe.

**Frill seekers**  
This season, beachwear is not about going back to basics, but setting the fashion bar a notch higher. Sarongs, denim cut-offs, tank tops on their last leg! For a change, toss your beach-bum outfits back into the closet and go for a whole lot of glam! Be the Seductive Siren on the prowl, in search of her next sandcastle soiree.

And with Jun Escario working his haute-couture magic (that oh-so-perfect mix of sensuality and sophistication), frill seekers won't have to cross oceans of time to find seductive fashion.

"I love doing party dresses for the beach—the crazier, the better!" says this Cebu sensation. When whipping up his creations, Jun turns to his "must fabrics": voile and cheesecloth, figure-flattering jersey and spandex, lush silk chiffon and pure silk, done in Hermes orange and chocolate ("These colors are so big now"), as well as navy with whites, yellows, lime and gold.

Tease and titillate. Entice and enchant. This is the style mantra on the island come sundown: Slip into your gorgeous garb; rein in your man, and watch the night turn into some enchanted evening.

E-mail the author at [jfashion@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:jfashion@inquirer.com.ph)

YOU'RE/D2

PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK NICDAO  
STYLING: JENNI EPPERSON  
HAIR AND MAKEUP: KENG ZULJETA  
OF SHUJENBURA USING KIEHL'S STYLIST SERIES  
AND "SWEET MODE"  
MODEL: JACKIE INOFRIO  
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SPECIAL THANKS TO: LEX LEDESMA AND TINA TINGO  
OF NAHI BEACH RESORTS

## Panasonic ideas for life



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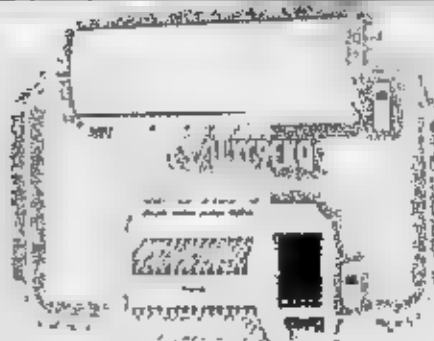
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Heads up, ladies!  
Cool down this  
summer with  
sizzling hot  
toppers

**CROCHETED BANDEAU**  
White crochet headband by Kikay, printed halter dress with rope accent by Tiger Lily at Rustan's, gold bangle by Kikay, seashell drop necklace by Firma

**STYLIZED TURBAN**  
Brown cotton turban by Kikay, multicolored striped maillot by Tiger Lily at Rustan's, and silver hoop earrings with assorted stones by Firma

**APPLES' PICKINGS**



**Apples Aberin-Sadhvani**

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PRECISE EYESHADOWS  
MODEL SOLENN HEUSSAUF

I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHY people in the metro never got into the habit of wearing headpieces such as hats, scarves and bandeaus. The scorching summer sun can practically fry an egg on the hot city pavement and yet the only time I ever see people donning fashionable hats or cute little chapeaus is when I'm in some seaside locale. Doesn't make sense, right? Well, maybe now's the time to make things right. If only to protect your face and scalp from the sun's harmful rays, you really should start donning some type of headgear. Sure, sunblock helps, but if the ultimate goal is to delay aging, not to mention to look stylishly sharp in the process, then start wearing those wide-brimmed toppers. Okay, okay, if that's a bit too resort-ish for your tastes, there are other ways to go about it. For instance, you can opt for a Panama hat that has a narrower brim and is therefore less attention-grabbing than the very wide-brimmed variety, otherwise known as a cartwheel. If you're really not the type to wear a hat, then protect your scalp and hair while adding some oomph to your wardrobe by wearing scarves, bandeaus and stylized turbans. A scarf or turban worn just right can be chic and sophisticated or carefree and casual, depending on your personality. But pretty please, now's not the time to chan-



**WOVEN HAT**  
Panama woven hat by Firma; white cotton top, flower and rope necklace by Mimi

**SCARF**  
Striped silk scarf by Louis Vuitton, white string bikini by Tiger Lily at Rustan's, silver hoop earrings by Kikay, and single bracelets with assorted stones by Firma

nel a tacky, gypsy-like fortune-teller or has-been Norma Desmond in "Sunset Boulevard" (unless, God-forbid, it suits your personality). Instead, think Jackie O in the '70s as she traipsed around Greece with her huge movie-star sunglasses and a scarf tied around her head. Just follow your instincts and, as always, base your choices on your personality. Remember, you have to be comfortable to look

and feel confident. If you're totally clueless but still want to give headgears a try, ask a fashionista friend to help you out. Come on. Try out these sassy toppers and have an exciting millinery adventure this sizzling hot summer. E-mail the author at [afashion@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:afashion@inquirer.com.ph)



# You're a beach... go

This season, beachwear is not about going back to basics but setting the fashion bar a notch higher

From page D1

## GENERAL ADVICE

There is a fine line between beach frocks and sagas outfits, and seductive sens-to-be must tread this lightly. NOUVEAU Fashion shows you just how

- Attack!**
- Wear your frocks barefoot or with sparkly slippers
  - Keep it light: Choose see-through fabrics, plain or embellished
  - Go for silhouettes that are loose and flowing, or cut tight to the body
  - Wear a two-piece bathing suit underneath: wearing lingerie will seem like you're about to hit the sack
- Avoid**
- High heels. Unless it's a pool party, wearing one on the beach is just plain weird
  - Teeter-totter, teeter-totter
  - Puffy gowns. You don't want to be mistaken for a runaway bride or heaven forbid a Reyna Elena. Stick to tunics or slip dresses
  - Heavy fabrics like velvet and brocade, or polyester mix. You want to look hot, not feel hot

PHOTOGRAPHY MARK NICOLA  
STYLING JENNI EPPERSON  
HAIR AND MAKEUP XING ZULUETA  
OF SHU UEMURA  
LUSING KIEHL'S STYLIST SERIES  
AND "SWEET MODE"  
MODEL JACQUELINE FERRO  
CLOTHES JUNE SCARO  
SPECIAL THANKS TO LEX, EDESHA  
AND TUA TINO  
OF NAMI BEACH RESORTS



Tsubibo chick



# Hold 'em fold 'em

By Alex Y. Vergara

**F**OLDED & HUNG IS poised to do to Polo Ravales what it did to Claudine Barretto two years ago. In a bid to strengthen its men's line, the local RTW brand has signed up the young actor as its newest image model.

Ravales, 23, will soon appear in the brand's billboards, print ads and in-store materials. The once chubby teenybopper has shed off baby fat over the last few months to fit into his new role as a fashion endorser.

"GMA 7 is grooming him as the next hottest thing," says Alan Vianzon, marketing manager of F&H. "He's now very aggressive and quite sexy, which conform to the brand's image."

F&H has taken note of this reinvention, and is willing to gamble on Ravales the way it did with Barretto sometime ago. His debut coincided with a fashion show featuring him and several male models wearing F&H's summer collection consisting of Western- and military-inspired outfits.

Clothes were grouped into three parts: luxe, casual and denim. For the first time in recent memory, female models at the F&H show played second fiddle to their male counterparts.

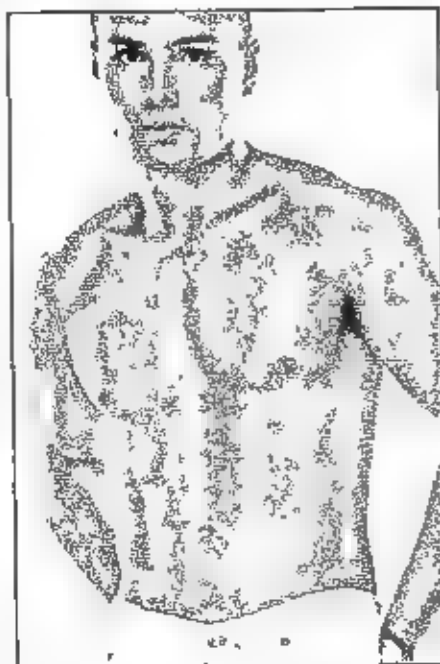
"We're still pretty strong when it comes to jeans for both men and women," says Vianzon. "We're known for the legally low jeans. At the same time, we're also known for party wear."

During the recent Hong Kong fashion week, people behind F&H have firmed up arrangements with suppliers from the former Crown Co. only to manufacture the brand's holiday and post-holiday collections. In order to ensure the uniqueness of its clothes, F&H has a pool of in-house designers.

## Lean.

Its current collection is decidedly lean, in keeping with Ravales' new physique. Earth colors, checks and neutral shades

Folded & Hung plays its cards right with urban cowboy-inspired clothes worn by new endorser Polo Ravales, sans the baby fat



such as white and gray will be big this season, as are such details as patches, epaulettes, piping and top-stitching.

Since the urban cowboy-inspired collection was conceptualized six months ago, says Vianzon, any reference to the critically acclaimed film "Brokeback Mountain" is purely coincidental.

The brand, however, isn't shy to admit that a big bulk of its market is composed of fashion-conscious gay men. They now have a new dream boy in the person of the lean and mean Ravales.

Email the author at [avergara@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:avergara@inquirer.com.ph)



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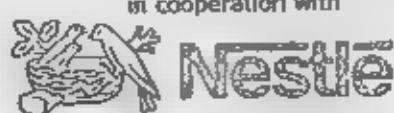
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## LIFE STYLE



## Pillow talk

Make sleep work for you

I LOVE TO SLEEP MAYBE A little bit too much. I have to be up, at the latest, at 10 a.m. Beyond that I have a hard time getting up. I honestly don't know why, but that's how I am. I have to sleep early because I'm a morning person, and if I oversleep... see you the next day!

Truth is, sleep is one thing everyone would benefit from. Good sleep (not too much or too little) does the body good. You wake up fresh, you feel and look fresh. Sleep rejuvenates and relaxes us.

Sleep is the best time to pamper yourself. Before sleeping, make sure you moisturize your face, including your neck. Yup, please don't forget your neck.

Last night, before sleeping, I watched this stand-up comic on TV talking about people getting botox. He said that their necks looked like those of turtles.

So see, the neck is as important as the face, so please do not disregard it. Unless you plan to wear turtleneck tops for the rest of your life.

Also spread lotion on your body. Use hand cream. Moisturize even your hair, if you wish. Think about it. Not only are you sleeping, but you are also pampering yourself and nourishing your skin.

My friend kept on complaining about dry skin on her feet. I told her the best

thing to do was to spread on petroleum jelly and wear thick socks. She followed it and the next day she told me she never had feet that smooth.



USE cheap petroleum jelly to moisturize feet.

Imagine what you can do for your body while you sleep. I honestly wish I could write my articles while I sleep so I wouldn't have to sleep so late anymore.

I'm not complaining. It's just that the things I do for myself when I sleep have such great results that if I found a way to write while I sleep, then maybe I won't have to worry about readers getting bored or me not making sense. Like what I am fearing now.

There are many products in the market that can make sleeping more than a pleasurable experience. Check out L'Occitane's jasmine beads, which you can cover your eyes with. Or look for calming incense that you can use after a long day's work.

Treat yourselves to goose down pillows. Moisturize and wake up to supple skin that will make your sheet feel like silk. If you make sleeping work for you, you will always be waking up feeling sexy.

INVEST in goose down pillows for a restful slumber.

BEAUTY

EMAIL THE AUTHOR AT [RBEAUTY@INQUIRER.COM.PH](mailto:RBEAUTY@INQUIRER.COM.PH)  
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## Summer skin shielders

Here are some products to lessen sun damage and even out your skin

THE SEARCH FOR perfectly even skintone is elusive. Most women go through the rest of their lives never achieving it.

Over the holidays, we were mostly covered up. Now that summer is here all the face brightening/lightening products are coming back with a vengeance.

Summer means the body will once again be darker.

For daytime, sun protection is a must. L'Oréal White Perfect Triple Whening Moisturizer with SPF 18 (PB95) is what I have been wearing on a daily basis, whether staying indoors for work or briefly stepping out. It exfoliates dead skin cells, lightens to even out skin by suppressing melanin production, and protects the skin from the sun to prevent further darkening.

A new one I have not yet tried is Nivea's Whiting Sunblock SPF 30.

When expecting to be outdoors and under the sun for a long period, I bring out the big gun—VMV Armada Sport SPF 70 (P1,100) for face and body, which is sweat- and waterproof so you can expose beautiful skin but keep it shielded from the sun.

If you want a more matte finish on the face, though, Armada's SPF 45 or 60 does a great job of keeping you looking like a perfect porcelain doll.

It is during the evenings before hitting the bed that I use the strongest skin-brightening body product. Bear in mind though that I do not encourage actual bleaching or skin peeling to whiten the skin because the slightest sun exposure will

MAKEOVER  
911Kinny  
Salas

L'OREAL White perfect SPF18 for body

make you burn faster and get dark uneven spots which make you look scarred or dirty.

My aim here is for everyone to get back their even-toned baby skin. Applying the stronger creams or serums at night is best because our skin repairs itself between 11 p.m.-4 a.m., so benefits are actually maximized as our skin will be more receptive to the treatment.

## Expensive yet effective

The products mentioned below are expensive so apply them on damp skin after a shower so they can spread easier and more evenly. This means you will require less products to achieve desired results as more isn't exactly better—it can just mean a lot of wasted money.

Belo Body Whiting Cream comes in a huge 1 kg tub and costs a whopping

P10,000. But it really works. If used properly the tub can last you six months or more.

I massage it on my elbows, knees, shoulders and back, which are tougher to lighten compared with the legs, arms and torso. This is not meant to be used on the face, so limit it to the neck down.

For those who want to multitask there is, of course, my regular Belo MD lotion (P1,150), which whitens and firms. This has a very runny texture, though, for easier absorption so it gets consumed faster. I go through mine in a month and it doesn't lighten as fast as the cream.

What I love about it, aside from the fact that it visibly whitens, is that my arms, thighs and abdomen jiggle a lot less after I've used it. The skin on my buttocks, thighs and chest are definitely more compact and firmer.

There is also Belo's Glutathione plus Alpha Lipoic Acid capsules (P4,700 for 60 tablets) which actually whiten your skin from the inside, working its way outside as a side effect of its anti-aging, anti-oxidant properties.

The capsules expel toxins from our bodies so our skin looks brighter.

The added ALA raises glutathione levels in our body, enabling it to fix any free-radical damage which causes premature aging and skin darkening.

Call 8442939 for Belo product inquiries.

Note: Due to the potency of the products, some require pre-consultation and skin-testing.

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By Alex Y. Vergara

**S**UBTLE CONTRASTS AND heritage-inspired details characterized Prada's spring-summer collection. Consisting of shoes, bags and luxury RTW pieces, the collection was recently unveiled in a fashion show on-board the Jumbo floating restaurant in Hong Kong.

Pleated and floaty dresses, most of them in loose silhouettes, had a vintage feel to them that harked back to the 1920s and 1960s. To give the pale linen, chiffon and silk faille pieces some punch, Mucca Prada and her team embellished them with subtle embroidery and printing.

A few pieces appeared flat from afar, but upon closer scrutiny they came with such subtle details as pleating, piping and a hint of trimmings. The very collection itself was marked with contrasts, as the pale numbers were soon punctuated with pieces in black and hot pink.

"The collection is very Prada in the sense that it's simple-looking, but, at the same time, entails a lot of work," said Sebastian Suhl, Prada's chief executive officer. "It's a bit like haute couture already. The whole idea is romantic and a bit loose to appeal to the strong woman."

The inclusion of hot pink numbers with satin trims and inlays perhaps underscored the house's introduction of its shielding lip balm, which comes in hot, summery colors.

The same elegant restraint was evident in

# Class chic

Prada makes a millennial statement with vintage pieces

Prada's men's wear collection, which consists mostly of light-colored suits made of linen and various cotton blends. Printed shirts gave certain pieces the much-needed exclamation point.

## Romance on the wedge

Prada's fascination with wicked-looking wedges, undeniably the bee of the moment, was still evident in chunky pieces made both of conventional and unconventional materials such as slim bamboo poles. The footwear's upper portions were made either of goat and patent leather.

"She's (Mucca) always been into wedges

in different forms," said Suhl. "It's the shape she's loved forever."

Bags remained an integral part of every Prada collection, and this time around the house did away with its trademark nylon purses and suzettes in favor of earth-colored carriers made from an interesting mix of leather, canvas, crocodile and various expensive animal skins.

Chic but seemingly high-maintenance linen bags, which echoed a number of details found in the clothes, also made the fashion cognoscent's heads turn. Prada's current bag collection is reportedly part of the house's heritage series.

"It's not actually a repeat of vintage styles," Suhl explained. "The collection is more inspired by bags Mrs. Prada's granddad did when he launched the company during the turn of the last century. Nylon bags aren't dead at all. In fact, they're still a big part of our business."

Everything old is new again at Prada.

E-mail the author at [avergara@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:avergara@inquirer.com.ph)



THE JUMBO floating restaurant, site of Prada's recent Hong Kong show

## INSIDE MALE MAKEOVER

# Nu beau

Text by Juan Sarte III and Robbie Carmona  
Photos by Raymond Isaac

### Juan says:

I remember the days when men's skincare didn't go beyond soap and water. While women tried every skin potion available, men got stuck to the same germicidal soap for the body as for the face.



Well, times have changed. With new products especially formulated for the modern male, we, males, have become more and more aware of the benefits of having a solid skincare routine—a youthful, radiant appearance, healthier-looking skin and smoother

shaves to name a few.

Women's skin concerns are not much different from ours. Just like them, our skin also needs the gentle cleansing, the nutrients and the pampering. Having a prescriptive skincare regimen should be as important to us as spending hours at the gym or fixing a business presentation for the next day. These days, it's not enough that we have it. We should be able to maintain it.

**Accomplice:** Zirh Skin Nutrition Products

**Personalized skincare.** Identify your skin type: dry, oily or combination skin. This will determine the frequency and amount of product to be used.

Dry skin will need more moisturizing; oily skin will need more cleansing; and a combi-



BLUE boy

nation of these will need just the right amount of both.

If you stay under the sun a lot, you will need a product with SPF. Since Zirh products are generically named after its functions and benefits, pinpointing your skincare prescription will be effortless.

**Core regimen.** Your daily Zirh skin regimen consists of three simple steps: (1) Clean, an alpha-hydroxy facial cleanser that washes away dirt, oil and acne-causing bacteria; (2) Correct, a multi-vitamin problem-solver that replenishes vitamins and softens skin; and (3) Protect, a daily defense moisturizing lotion, or Defend, a light moisturizer with SPF 15.

**Trouble shooting.** Combat skin problems with the rest of the Zirh concoctions. Scrub is an exfoliator that polishes and deep-cleans by sloughing off dead skin. Restore is an under-eye repair cream that reduces puffiness, dark circles and fine lines. Fix is a blemish-control gel that reduces pimples, whiteheads, blackheads, razor burns and ingrown hair. Clay Mask detoxifies your skin's surface and pores by absorbing impurities and excess oils.

Refresh is an invigorating astringent that deep-cleans pores, sweeps away excess oil and tightens skin.

before



**Target:** Jason Pennings, 21  
**Mission:** From casual cool to modern male

### Robbie says:

Over the years, man has evolved to keep up with fashion... from basic and clean lines to slim pants and fitted button-down shirts. His sense of style has reached a new height.

The new man is confident, fearless and not afraid to experiment in fashion. His closet is not confined to merely blacks and whites. He is not afraid

to inject colors in his wardrobe without compromising his sexuality and personality. He dresses to live and not to impress. It is a style not inherited from his father but from an acquired taste.

Allow me to introduce to you the new man as envisioned by Dockers.

**Accomplice:** Levi's Dockers

**Look 1:** Put a dash of color to brighten up your day. Match your light-blue pants with a long-sleeved shirt to create a stunning look. Transform your necktie into a belt that is perfect for work and play.

**Look 2:** Blaze it up! Blazer + Henley shirt + bling bling = Hottie!



STYLE blazer



**BUM**  
image model  
Lj Reyes in  
pink baby  
tee.



"PINOY  
Big  
Brother"'s  
Rico  
Barrelra  
in Bum  
Equipment's  
latest



**YOUNG**  
actor/dancer  
Danilo  
Barrios in  
Bum  
Equipment's  
white  
summer tee



## Wear and win the hottest summer spree

How can something so hot be so cool this summer? As the laid back vacation season takes in, fashion likewise welcomes a shift to a breezier, younger, more comfortable take on summer staples. Bum Equipment, whether in laidback jeans, baby tees, denim skirts and shorts and slide sand slippers, Bum Equipment is a much needed breather from the glaring details and frazzles of the runway retail wears. This time around, Bum Equipment gives everyone more reason to move around, lounge around and yes, bum around without any inhibition.

Fashionable, functional and downright practical, Bum Equipment isn't only easy on the eyes, but easy on the wallet as well. And this summer, Bum Equipment gives everyone a bigger reason to shop. For every \$40 worth of single receipt purchase of any regular priced Bum Equipment or Bum & product, everyone gets a raffle coupon. This will give the buyer a chance to win fabulous prizes. At stake are 2 KWEEK 88 trends scooters, 6 brand new Nokia 3230 cellphones and 6 fashionable Apria (Pant shuffles \$12 MSRP) for mother and beauty tools like to summer.

This special treat is good only from February 27 to April 30, 2006 and open only to Metro Manila and Luzon. Bum Equipment has 100 outlets nationwide. Now that gives you over 100 reasons to shop and hop to the nearest Bum Equipment store. Buy a Bum Equipment now, and win the coolest, trendiest summer equipment! For promo details, please visit any B&E outlets for prizes and mechanics.

# Robinsons

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Chicco Leather Shoes for Boys



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## LIFESTYLE

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2006

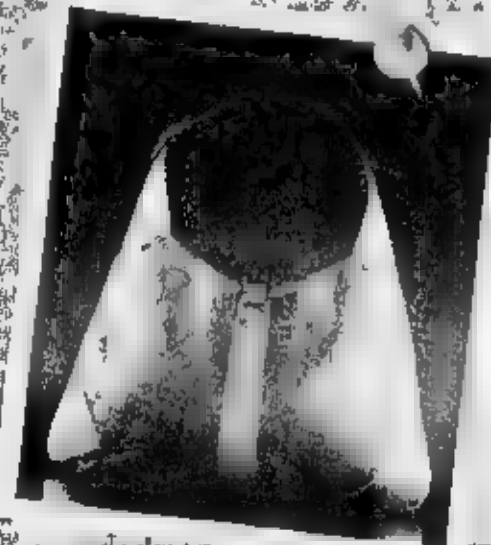
Flaunt this season's hottest accessories: Drag bags, show-off shoes, a haute hat and a super cute scarf for the brat babes.



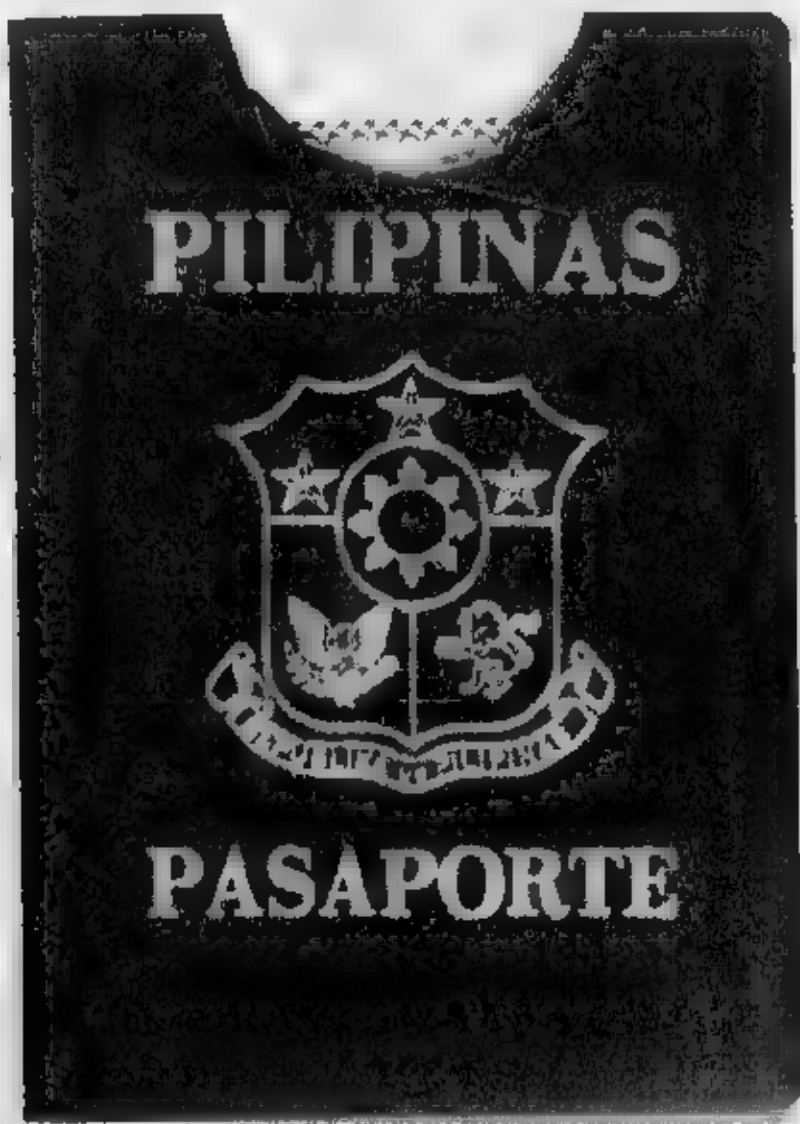
LUXURY CRUISE.  
Gucci cruise collection



HOLE IN ONE.  
LV Monogrammed Perfo



BAG OF GOLD.  
Gucci S/S 2006 Bouvier bag



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as awarded by The Department of Trade and Industry and The Philippine Retailers Association

**Get clear skin this summer**

Summer is fast approaching but before you hit the beach, pack right. Do not underestimate the importance of getting that radiant skin. Get started with Bench Papaya Whitening and Firming Soap with Seaweed Extract (P49.00). Made of the finest papaya and bearberry extracts, it helps peel off unwanted skin cells while its natural seaweed components that cleanse and help tighten the skin leaving it younger-looking and free from all blemishes. Also available is the Bench Papaya Moisturizing Soap with Milk for silkier, soft skin.

Treat yourself with the Bench Papaya Whitening and Firming Lotion (P85.00) and restore that youthful glow. It is especially formulated with natural extracts that gently exfoliate, whiten and tighten the skin.

After a long day under the sun, get refreshed with Bench Papaya Whitening and Firming Body Scrub (P179.00) enriched with Apricot seeds to gently exfoliate and radiate that healthier, fairer skin.

Discover your true beauty with Bench Organics Papaya Line. Get it at your nearest Bench, Herbench, Bench Body and PCX outlets nationwide.





# PINOY HITS!

**PHILAM**  
**LIFE**

*Buong Mundo, Saludo!*

# Associates of the Year

## Career Agent Category

## AGENT OF THE YEAR

Philamlife's Top Career Agents who achieved the honor and distinction of being the Company's most productive Career Agents for Recognition Year 2006.

They stand out among a field of more than 9,000 Career Agents nationwide.



**LUCILA H. KIERULFF**  
Del Mundo Associates  
Top National



**ROSARIO C. SALIENTES**  
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates  
Top Manila



**BIENVENIDO M. LUMAAD**  
Pagadian-Tamala Agency  
Top Provincial



**MA. ELENA G. ASTURIAS**  
Del Mundo Associates  
1st Runner-up Manila



**ELENITA V. BELIGIANO**  
Balacan-Matamoros Agency  
1st Runner-up Provincial

## Unit Manager Category

## UNIT MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Philamlife's Top Unit Managers who achieved the honor and distinction of being the Company's most productive Unit Managers for Recognition Year 2006.



**MA. ZENaida N. ANTONIO**  
Antonio Associates  
Top National



**ANNA CONCEPCION C. BLANCO**  
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates  
Top Manila



**VICENTE G. TAN**  
Cebu-Tan Agency  
Top Provincial



**NILDA C. UY**  
Del Mundo Associates  
1st Runner-up Manila



**FELISA S. PINEDA**  
Central Luzon Direct  
1st Runner-up Provincial

## Agency Manager Category

## AGENCY MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Philamlife's Top Agency Managers who achieved the honor and distinction of being the Company's most productive Agency Managers for Recognition Year 2006.



**LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, MTCF**  
Del Mundo Associates  
Top National



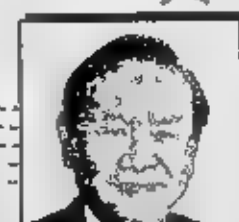
**VERONICA S. GONZALEZ**  
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates  
Top Manila



**ROSARIO C. SALIENTES**  
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates  
Top Manila



**JOHN E. MATA, JR.**  
INV-Mata Agency  
Top Provincial



**JUAN A. TAN**  
Tan Associates  
1st Runner-up Manila



**MELBA L. TAN**  
Cebu-Tan Agency  
1st Runner-up Provincial



The Insurance Commission would like to extend its warmest felicitations to the winners of Philamlife's 2006 National Recognition Program (NRP).

It is indeed a welcome development that Philamlife continues to lead the life insurance industry through its Agency Sales Force's top producers amidst a challenging economic environment. That this comes in the form of the recent emergence of the Filipino in the global community makes the NRP theme, "Pinoy Hits! Buong Mundo, Saludo!", much appropriate for the occasion.

With much appreciation, we highly commend you, the Philamlife NRP winners, who will be recognized in this celebration for your tireless efforts and for championing the noble cause of the local life insurance industry.

On behalf of the Insurance Commission, please accept my sincere congratulations.

**HON. EVANGELINA G. ESCOBILLO**  
Commissioner  
Insurance Commission



While Philamlife continues its life insurance market leadership in the Philippines, one of its key challenges is to grow its number of exceptional agents such as those we celebrate today. These winners do not have perfect social status, educational background or previous work experience. What they do share is a strong belief in the things they do, a work ethic that does not give up, and a complete commitment to attend to the needs and joys of their clients.

While other companies talk about people being in great luck, we make distinction in Philamlife: Here, the right people do great work. Our clients agree that while we continue to assure more Filipinos of their future, they also realize the master today depends on Philamlife and depend on their Philamlife agent to help them save, plan and secure their futures.

My heartfelt congratulations to all winners! Best wishes to you, or even greater success in the years to come.

**EDMUND S.W. TSE**  
Chairman of the Board



I have great pleasure in congratulating Philamlife's best in this year's National Recognition Program.

The agents we celebrate today know that success is no accident. It is a result of planning, hard work and determination. Many people have a dismissive view of agency work as just a matter of luck. What others do not appreciate is that a job begins with forethought and planning. It combines intelligent use of a special kind of savvy found in convincing and charismatic individuals. Agency sales is also attention to detail and a follow-through with service. But mostly, sales is about listening. It is an art to succeed in insurance sales if an agent does not listen intently to the needs and wants of clients. How else can an agent pick-up on the subjects of conversations? It is an agent's sensitivity to what is unsaid that makes him or her valuable to his client. I am proud to say that all our winners might possess these winning traits and are examples of what is best about Philamlife.

On behalf of the Philamlife Family, I thank all of our winners for their perseverance, for their sales, dedication and their loyalty to the company. Their example of hard work and success are inspiration to both our agency and employee force to continue to do their best and are pillars of our vision, leadership and profitability.

**JOSE L. GUISLA, JR.**  
President & Chief Executive Officer



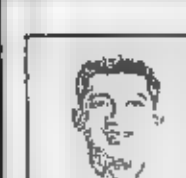
From the late Ninoy Aquino to Corason Aquino, the Philippines has always been a place of hope and dreams. Today, the Philippines is a place of opportunity and growth. The Philippines is a place where the Filipino generation has been able to realize its dreams and aspirations. The Philippines is a place where the Filipino generation has been able to realize its dreams and aspirations. The Philippines is a place where the Filipino generation has been able to realize its dreams and aspirations.

The arena you fought in last year was most definitely a tough one. It was filled with obstacles and challenges, but you rose to the occasion. It has often been said that in times of adversity, one's true character is revealed. While we may not have achieved all our goals in 2005, your accomplishments deserve our deepest admiration and our warmest congratulations.

Once again, as we have always done for decades now, we take time out to cheer our best achievers, to honor their commitment, to recognize their hard work. And even as we do so, we also look forward to challenges in your new year ahead, because the Philippines is not a place of rest and relaxation. The Philippines is a place where the Filipino generation has been able to realize its dreams and aspirations. The Philippines is a place where the Filipino generation has been able to realize its dreams and aspirations.

*Sending Philamlife's Saludos Pinoy!*

**JESUS G. HOFLENA**  
Executive Vice President  
Sales, Marketing & Training

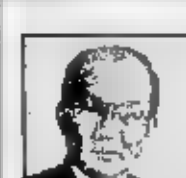


My warmest "Congratulations" to all in 2006 winners. You have proven once again that what was thought of to be impossible can be achieved with a lot of hard work and our commitment. Your success is the result of your hard work and our commitment. Your success is the result of your hard work and our commitment. Your success is the result of your hard work and our commitment.

You have demonstrated your dedication to the company vision of providing a Philamlife policy to every Filipino family. You have given your best, knowing that you could have made a difference in the lives of many. Truly an honorable deed.

*Atinang!*

**ARIEL G. CANTOS**  
General Vice President  
Chief Agency Officer



In the many years as agency manager with our company, my chief satisfaction of the Filipino in the insurance industry is to recognize an opportunity and the wisdom to take advantage of it. Everyone has had bad breaks, but everyone who has opportunities. The Filipino agent who recognizes and capitalizes on his chance will lead on.

Some of the Filipino men that characterize a top notch achiever, I found out are the capacity to endure hardships, the long hours devoted for work, the willingness to the demands of the profession calling, keeping daily appointments, performing work better than an average agent does, rendering the most and best service possible to clients and giving through difficult times, honesty and integrity, making several sales calls and not giving a closed deal, but staying firm in a desire to make one more call. The top Filipino agent will persevere his goal to the end, it is not the play of winning, but the play of winning, as seen in the reality of a work fully done.

Truly there is much to be saying, we now consciously have globally: *Philamlife, ang pinoy ang!*

Working hard to win in all our 2006 Associates, you represent the best in Filipino. May your numbers increase year after year.

**JOSE ISAGANI F. ANTONIO**  
FMB of Far East Associates





This elite club recognizes distinguished members for their superior performance in quality business, exceptional first year production and professional agency values.

They stand as vanguards, leading the field in exceptional professionalism --- such is the hallmark of a premier agent of the premier Company.

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Tax Associates



LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, LUTCF  
Del Mundo Associates



ANTONINA S. SOLOMON  
Salinas-Gonzalez Associates



NANCY BAUTISTA-ESPIRITU  
Espiritu Associates



ELEANTA V. BELIGANTO  
Belacan-Marinero Agency



MA. TERESA D. HERNANDEZ  
Salinas-Gonzalez Associates



## GOLD



CORAZON A. ANG  
CA Ang Associates



MA. EDITHA S. PENAFIOR  
Amato Associates



THERISTAS S. PANOPIO  
Salinas-Gonzalez Associates



MARISSA V. TAGUINOD  
RVS State Agency



FLORENTINA M. ARDIDON  
Ardidon Associates



RODOLFO M. MALJAR  
Pampanga Del Rosario Agency



PERLA O. ARGUELLES  
Dalla Purificacion Agency



EDES L. JALOS, OS  
Del Mundo Associates



NANCY S. UY  
Del Mundo Associates



MA. ANTONIETTA Q. DEL MUNDO, RHP  
Mundo Associates



YOLANDA A. MORTEL, LUTCF  
Mortel Associates



MARICHELE C. GREGORIO  
Cebu-Tan Agency



TERESITA R. CABARRUBIA  
Mortel Associates



MA. VIRGINIA O. BAUTISTA  
Mortel Associates

## SILVER



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NILDA C. UY  
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IRENE B. VILELA  
Corne Medeiros Agency



ERIC G. NILLAO  
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REYNOLD A. GAN  
Gan Associates



JOSE ELMER C. AMURA  
Pogonias-Tanaka Agency



MA. ZENAIIDA N. ANTONIO  
Antonio Associates



VERONICA S. GONZALEZ  
Salinas-Gonzalez Associates



JEANETTE C. FABICO  
Tan Associates



EDGAR C. BARTOLATA  
Del Mundo Associates



ELENA R. NAMID  
Namid Associates



YOLANDA D. SANTOS  
Mortel Associates



PATRICIA W. YAM, LUTCF  
Yam Associates



ALMA E. LORENTE  
Del Mundo Associates



ROSSANNA S. J.  
Del Mundo Associates



LEONILA F. SANTIAGO  
Buenavista Agency



DEBBIE S. NAO  
Tan Associates



MA. MADELINE I. PO  
Cebu-Tan Agency



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MA. ANUNCIACION C. QUIROZ  
Quiroz Associates



JULIE S. GO  
Gan Associates



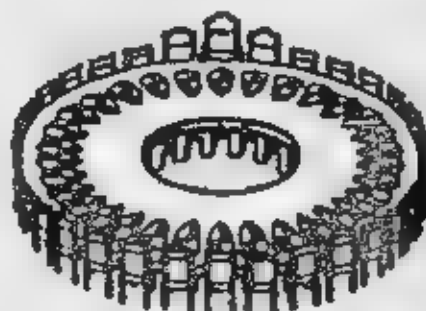
SAULO P. CAPILI  
Capili Associates



LEONY T. REYES  
Herrera Associates



KARLA M. CAPILI  
Capili Associates



MILLION DOLLAR  
ROUND TABLE

## AGENTS WHO SATISFIED THE PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2006 MDRT

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12-Time Top of the Table



LUCILA H. NIERUL  
8 years Qualifying Member  
Top of the Table



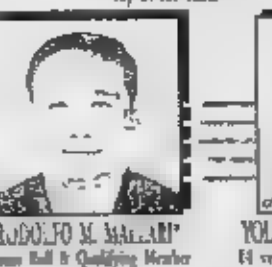
MA. ELENA G. ASTURIAS  
13 years Qualifying & Life Member  
Crown of the Table



MA. TERESA D. HERNANDEZ  
8 years Qualifying Member  
Crown of the Table



CORAZON A. ANG  
Honor Roll & Qualifying Member



RODOLFO M. MALJAR  
Honor Roll & Qualifying Member



YOLANDA A. MORTEL, LUTCF  
14 years Qualifying & Life Member



VALERIE U. WONG DE LEON, LUTCF  
10 years Qualifying Member



ANTONINA S. SOLOMON  
9 years Qualifying Member



SHIRLEY L. CO  
9 years Qualifying Member



TERESITA R. CABARRUBIA  
8 years Qualifying Member



NILDA C. UY  
4 years Qualifying Member



LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, LUTCF  
7 years Qualifying Member



LOURDES E. BERNARDO  
7 years Qualifying Member



MA. EDITHA S. PENAFIOR  
7 years Qualifying Member



FLORENTINA M. ARDIDON  
8 years Qualifying Member



ANUNCIACION C. BIROG  
6 years Qualifying Member



THERISTAS S. PANOPIO  
5 years Qualifying Member



MARISSA V. TAGUINOD  
5 years Qualifying Member



MA. LUZ S. VENCIO  
3 years Qualifying Member



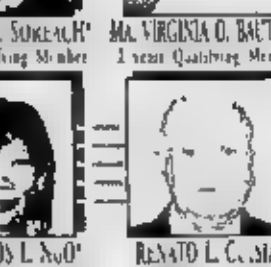
MA. ZENAIIDA N. ANTONIO  
6 years Qualifying Member



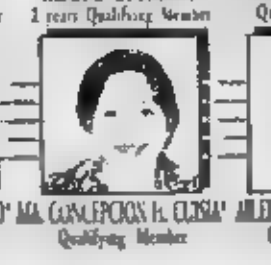
REYNOLD A. GAN  
4 years Qualifying Member



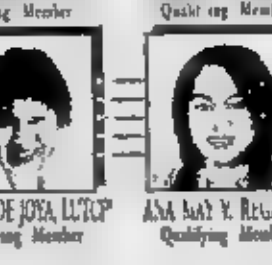
MARICHELE C. GREGORIO  
3 years Qualifying Member



DAISY G. SERBANOS  
3 years Qualifying Member



PERLA O. ARGUELLES  
3 years Qualifying Member



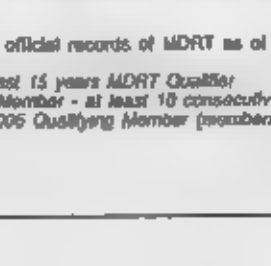
fernando E. PALCAN  
3 years Qualifying Member



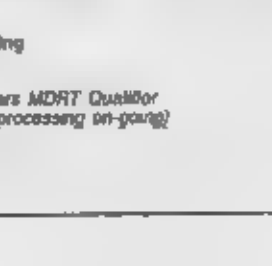
EDES L. JALOS, OS  
3 years Qualifying Member



JEANETTE C. FABICO  
3 years Qualifying Member



MA. LUZ S. VENCIO  
3 years Qualifying Member



MA. ELENA G. ASTURIAS  
13 years Qualifying & Life Member



MA. TERESA D. HERNANDEZ  
8 years Qualifying Member



MA. ANTONIETTA Q. DEL MUNDO, RHP  
4 years Qualifying Member



VERONICA S. GONZALEZ  
4 years Qualifying Member



MA. ZENAIIDA N. ANTONIO  
Antonio Associates



REYNOLD A. GAN  
Gan Associates



JOSE ELMER C. AMURA  
Pogonias-Tanaka Agency

• based on latest official records of MDRT as of printing

Honor Roll - at least 15 years MDRT Qualifier

Qualifying & Life Member - at least 10 consecutive years MDRT Qualifier

\* Candidate for 2006 Qualifying Member (membership processing on-going)





Membership in this exclusive honor club, dedicated to Philamlife's Chairman, Edmund S.W. Tse, is limited to the top 15% of Philamlife's outstanding Agency Leaders.



### DIRECT UNIT CATEGORY



### AGENCY CATEGORY



In the tradition of excellence, these Agency Leaders have distinguished themselves with exceptional First Year Production for Recognition Year 2006.



### DIRECT UNIT CATEGORY



A five-time member of the Chairman's Board earns the rank and privilege to be elevated to Philamlife's highest honor club.

This club extols the memory of Philamlife's Founder and First President, Earl Carroll.

These are the true professionals who represent excellence and commitment.



This exclusive honor club, dedicated to Philamlife's Chairman, Edmund S.W. Tse, counts among its members the top 15% of Philamlife's outstanding Career Agents.

They are the true pacesetters of the agency force who exemplify growth and strength, characteristics of intensely dedicated men and women.



The mark of a career underwriter is exemplified by this worldwide symbol of excellence. Membership to this club is measured by persistency — the number of clients who keep their policies in-force for many years. Persistent business is the seal of a true professional.









# Leadership At Its Finest

Del Mundo  
**51**  
1955 - 2006

**PHILAM LIFE**

## A LEGACY OF AGENCY EXCELLENCE



*"I never worry about my job. I do it with commitment, passion and dedication".*

Lourdes M. Del Mundo,  
CUTCF  
Senior Agency Manager,  
MDRT, Premier Agent-  
Philam and  
Founder's Circle

What can be more fulfilling than doing what you love best and being recognized as one of the best, if not the best, in your field? For Senior Agency Manager Lourdes "Lulu" Del Mundo, it is truly a glorious experience to see her agency, the Del Mundo Associates, become the number one agency of Philamlife for the second year in a row. In 2005, the agency has once again proved its commitment to excellence and service by adding several feathers into its cap, including a record number of 18 Million Dollar Round Table qualifiers.

There are no secrets to success, and among the many things, Ms. Del Mundo values the quality of service that one provides to his/her clients. Ms. Del Mundo values professional ethics highly and stresses the importance of being "high-touch" more than being "high-tech", an inspiration that she took from Mr. Bob Hughes (one of the speakers in the 10th LUAP anniversary in Singapore) way back in 1984.

### Excellent client service is key

"It is very important that we establish both good personal and professional relationship with the clients. When meeting with the client, we have to be prepared, ready, honest and sincere. Clients appreciate if you offer them products that best suit their needs. A product with high premium may not always be the best one to offer," she shares.

Ms. Del Mundo asserts that it is important to make a client believe in what you are doing. "I always tell my agents that a client may not always buy from us, but what is important is for him to share our belief of the importance of life insurance."

This concern for clients and the goal of developing her people into good agents are what continuously drive Ms. Del Mundo to give her best in her profession, propelling her agency to greater heights of success. With 51 years of experience, 11 unit managers and more than 200 agents under her belt, Ms. Del Mundo can truly expect better things to come.

### Beating their best

- Top agency of the Philippine American Life and General Insurance, Co. (Philamlife) for two straight years (2004-2005)
- More than 30 years of agency excellence, commitment and service by providing quality and expert life insurance and financial services to its valued clients, constantly looking for opportunities for growth and innovation to make products and services more accessible to the Filipino community
- Steadfast commitment to growth and development of its leaders and agents by providing venues to continuous learning, trainings and industry's best practices
- Consistently produces awardees and top company producers by being home to innumerable members to the Million Dollar Round Table, (MDRT), Premier Agents, Top of the Table Court of the Table, Tamaraw, International Awardees, among other achievements
- At the helm is Senior Agency Manager Lourdes Del Mundo, the first lady agency manager of Philamlife, who constantly inspires and moulds agency leaders towards paths of excellence and service. She was given the FEU-FERN Professorial Chair Accolade by her unit managers in 2005 as a tribute to her leadership and commitment to excellence
- Its advocacy is to continuously help improve the life of every Filipino family not only by providing services for financial security and protection, but by contributing to socio-civic activities as well. Last year, the agency has actively contributed to special activities, like the Gawad Kalinga and Philamlife Foundation.



**SAM Lourdes M. Del Mundo**  
Agency Manager of the Year  
Chairman's Cabinet  
MDRT  
Top Agency-Accident & Health-



**Lucila Kierulf**  
Agent of the Year  
MDRT- Top of the Table

**Ma. Elena Asturias**  
MDRT - Court of the Table  
MDRT Life & Qualifying Member  
1st runner-up Top Agent

**Nilda Uy**  
MDRT  
1st runner-up  
Top Unit Manager-Manila

### MDRT (Million Dollar Round Table), CHAIRMAN'S BOARD



Top L-R: Ma. Elena Asturias, Lucila Kierulf, Lourdes Del Mundo, Nilda Uy, Ma. Luz Vencio, Anunciacion Birog, Zenaida Palmes, Eden Jalosjos, Ma. Antonietta Del Mundo Bottom Row L-R: Alma Llorente, Grace Silva (Chairman's Board), Nancy Uy, Rosanna Uy, Domingo Reyes (Chairman's Board), Renato Cuisia, Ma. Concepcion Cuisia, Mary Lou Del Rosario, Salvacion Contreras

### PREMIER AGENTS



Platinum: Lourdes Del Mundo, Gold: Ma. Antonietta Del Mundo, Eden Jalosjos, Nancy Uy Silver: Nilda Uy, Ma. Luz Vencio, Rosanna Uy, Alma Llorente, Ed Bartolata

### FOUNDER'S CIRCLE



Top L-R: Lucila Kierulf, Ma. Elena Asturias, Lourdes Del Mundo, Nilda Uy Bottom L-R: Zenaida Palmes, Anunciacion Birog, Fe De Dios

### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE



Top L-R: Ma. Antonietta Del Mundo, Eden Jalosjos, Nancy Uy, Bottom L-R: Ma. Luz Vencio, Rosanna Uy, Alma Llorente

### LIMRA, International Quality Award



Nilda Uy, Eden Jalosjos, Norma De Venecia

### PRESIDENT'S CABINET



Top L-R: Ma. Elena Asturias, Nilda Uy, Nelsa Laudico

### TAMARAW AWARDEES (Tamaraw Club & Council)



Clockwise from Top L-R: Reynaldo Birog, Evelyn Tuason, Norma Magpartay, Evangelina Reyes, Belen Quiogus, Luisito Laudico

Together with the number one insurance company that cares for the Filipino people, it is our commitment to continuously provide the Filipino people quality, reliable and professional financial advisory service.

We do our best. We give our best. We beat our best. Because you deserve nothing less.

Learn more about us! Know more about the rewarding opportunities in the agency by dropping by at the office or calling us at 721-2394, 687-9100, 722-6367.

## The Del Mundo Associates

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Greenhills, 1500 San Juan, Metro Manila

Unit 1201, 12/F Antel Global Corporate Center, No. 3  
Julio Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City



# "WE MOVE PEOPLE UP"

## ISAGANI ANTONIO ASSOCIATES, TOP AGENCY BUILDER



With 33 years of experience, the **Isagani Antonio Associates (IAA)**, led by **Senior Agency Manager Jose Isagani F. Antonio**, certainly is a trailblazer when it comes to rapid expansion and agency building. Beginning from a vision of a successful career in Philamlife, he surpassed all agencies by consistently leading Philamlife in Agency Sales Performance and Growth.

Seven years ago, the Antonio Associates then embarked on an even greater challenge – the building of agencies to begin a timeless legacy of expansion and growth:



### Leonida Roque Associates

December 1, 1999

The LD Roque Associates was IAA's 1<sup>st</sup> Agency appointment, headed by **Agency Manager Leonida D. Roque** who joined IAA as an agent in 1990.

As a unit supervisor, Nida Roque was based in IAA's San Pedro operations and fast-tracked her management career through consistent recruitment and high sales performance in the area.

Soon, in 1999, the LD Roque Associates was born with 3 agency leaders and a San Pedro Philamlife Agency Office targeted to cater to the needs of clients and policy owners of San Pedro and nearby towns.



### Roberto Bernardo Associates

December 1, 2001

Two years later, IAA's Cubao group was also ready to create their own agency path. **Agency Manager Roberto A. Bernardo** joined IAA in 1982, resigning from his teaching profession to become an agent. Soon after, he became a unit supervisor and began building up his group, with his wife and top producer, Ludy, by his side. The Bernardo Associates was born in 2001 and immediately made its mark in Philamlife agency history for its numerous achievements as a Rookie Agency. For 3 years in a row, the agency bagged a Philamlife President's Cup in their category and was already exhibiting the same desire for success as their multi-awarded Mother Agency.

Roberto A. Bernardo joined IAA in 1982, resigning from his teaching profession to become an agent. Soon after, he became a unit supervisor and began building up his group, with his wife and top producer, Ludy, by his side. The Bernardo Associates was born in 2001 and immediately made its mark in Philamlife agency history for its numerous achievements as a Rookie Agency. For 3 years in a row, the agency bagged a Philamlife President's Cup in their category and was already exhibiting the same desire for success as their multi-awarded Mother Agency.



### Eduardo Fordan Associates

December 1, 2005

The latest addition to the Agency Building legacy of IAA is the Fordan Associates. **Agency Manager Ed A. Fordan** joined IAA in 1990. A chemist by profession, he made a decision to venture into insurance selling and soon became a top producer and consistent awardee of IAA and Philamlife. As an agent, Ed also actively recruited other agents to join IAA, already demonstrating his leadership potential and his natural ability to motivate and influence others. In Year 2000, he became a Unit Manager, and soon after, the group expanded rapidly from Alabang all the way to Antique, Kalibo and Iloilo. True to his IAA roots, AM Ed Fordan made his mark as one of the fastest-rising agencies of the Company. In 6 years, the Fordan Unit became the Fordan Associates.

Ed A. Fordan joined IAA in 1990. A chemist by profession, he made a decision to venture into insurance selling and soon became a top producer and consistent awardee of IAA and Philamlife. As an agent, Ed also actively recruited other agents to join IAA, already demonstrating his leadership potential and his natural ability to motivate and influence others. In Year 2000, he became a Unit Manager, and soon after, the group expanded rapidly from Alabang all the way to Antique, Kalibo and Iloilo. True to his IAA roots, AM Ed Fordan made his mark as one of the fastest-rising agencies of the Company. In 6 years, the Fordan Unit became the Fordan Associates.

## THERE ARE MANY WHERE THEY CAME FROM

The Antonio Associates looks to the future by developing more leaders within its ranks.

At the end of FY 2005, there were 14 Unit Managers, any one of whom upon meeting the standard of the company for agency manager, may eventually head his or her own agency.

At the beginning of FY 2006, the Antonio Associates recommended the appointment of 6 Associate Unit Managers (AUMs) to hasten their development as UMs. It also created the new position of Group Leader (GL) whose principal function is to assist the agency in nominating potential and qualified agents from among the people they get in touch with in the course of their selling activities. There are more than 50 GLs but 15 of them committed the most number of trainees up to August 2006.



UM ORLANDO ABANTO



UM ZENAÍDA ANTONIO



UM CARMELITÁ AQUINO



UM AIDA HERNANDEZ



UM LENY MARCELLANA



UM IRENE NUEVO



UM ROGELIO CRISOSTOMO



UM GLICERÍA DE LEÓN



UM EDUARDO FORDAN



UM EDERLINA OLEGARIO



UM CESAR ONATE



UM NOEMI POBLADOR



UM ANGELITÁ LAUDE



UM MELINDA IRAN



AUM YOLANDA GARCESA



AUM SUSAN PESASCO



AUM RODOLFO BARTOLOME



AUM JUANITO DULFO



AUM THELMA LOYOLA



AUM GLENN LUDOVICE



AUM ARMANDO ORDÓÑEZ



AUM ANA MAY REGALA



GL IMELDA DELOS SANTOS



GL SHERWIN CHAN



GL ANGELICA VILVAR



GL LORENZA MAYUGBA



GL VITALIANO FORTES



GL FAITH ESTRABO



GL ROWENA VILLEGAS



GL MELODY PEREGRINO



GL SAMUEL ALEJO



GL EMELITÁ ABANTO



GL ANNIE CAPULLA



GL CECILIA BARNUEVO



GL EVELYN MENDOZA



GL HELEN NABONG



GL EVELINA BEROYA

## OUR TOP PERFORMERS FOR FY 2005



UM ZENAÍDA ANTONIO  
MDRT\*  
Associate of the Year  
PCAB  
Premier Agent



EDITHA PEÑAFLOR  
MDRT\*  
Premier Agent  
PCA



CONSOLACION BLANCO  
MDRT\*  
PCA



AUM MAY REGALA  
MDRT\*  
TAMARAW CLUB



JOCELYN SECRETARIO  
IOA



AIDA MATTI  
COMPACT  
CHAMPION  
TAMARAW CLUB



VIRGILIO HERNANDEZ  
TAMARAW CLUB



UM AIDA HERNANDEZ  
TAMARAW COUNCIL



UM EDERLINA OLEGARIO  
TAMARAW COUNCIL



UM EDUARDO FORDAN  
TAMARAW COUNCIL



UM CESAR ONATE  
TAMARAW COUNCIL



UM MELINDA ITAN  
TAMARAW COUNCIL

\* CANDIDATE FOR 2006 QUALIFYING MEMBER (membership processing on-going)



## ISAGANI ANTONIO ASSOCIATES

Profit from our experience and reputation. Join us.

- First-Ever Hall of Fame Awardee in Philamlife
- The Largest Philamlife Agency in Manpower
- Consistent Growth in 32 Years
- The Leader in New Products Promotion
- Complete selling paraphernalia for agents
- Extensive training programs for agents and managers



Philamlife is proud to present its new partners in maintaining its leadership in the industry,  
**Sulong PHILAMLIFE!**  
**The new Agency Leaders of 2006.**

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